

MINUTES  
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
November 10, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Dan Steward, Tom Osborne, Steve Kimball, Dick Burlingame, and Chris Humphrey.

Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood

Watershed Specialist: Jean Gomory

Cooperators: Wes Ramsey and JoAnn Curtis

Dan called the meeting to order at the Jamestown Audubon Club at 7:09pm with more than 35 people present.

ELECTIONS: Steve Kimball ran the elections with an explanation of the Board's composition and a brief history of the candidates for this year:

Chautauqua County – Chris Humphrey

Cattaraugus County – Brian Schrantz

Warren County – Tom Osborne

Additionally, with the resignation of Dick Hotchkiss, the Cattaraugus County open seat has one candidate, John Haffner. Steve opened the floor to further nominations. With no further nominations, Liz made a motion for the secretary to cast one ballot accepting the above nominations. Tom seconded. The Secretary so moved.

MINUTES: The Chairman asked for a nomination to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last Annual Meeting. Steve so moved. John seconded. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL: Liz presented the Treasurer's Report ending October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The checking balance is \$1,553.90 with three expenses itemized and several membership, donations and grant deposits. The savings balance is \$3,601.20 with interest added. She then presented the Income and Expense Statement from January 1, 2009 to the present date. Support and Revenue totaled \$4,733.04 and Expenses totaled \$1935.05 for a new yearly income of \$2797.99. Chris made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. A second came from Tom. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Liz presented our annual environmental award to Tom Osborne. She explained to the audience that Tom organized the enormously successful Conewango Creek Clean-up in September in which about 45 people participated and removed an estimated three tons of trash from the river and it's banks, and spoke of how he has brought energy and passion to the group. Along with the award, Tom received a \$25 gift certificate to Lowe's.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Dan read our Mission Statement and reviewed the past year. He cited our Activities in the field consisting of the Conewango Creek Clean-up, the Kiosk repair, employing the Youth Volunteer Corps planting willows, the Rainbarrel workshop and fundraiser and the Canoe float membership drive. He then spoke of the groups' participation on public policy decisions within the Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force, the Jackson Run Task Force, DEC in our comments on the need for modification to the 1992 GEIS for the Mining

Industry regarding Marcellus Shale drilling, the removal of the Warren Dam, WEMO – Watershed Education for Municipal Officials, the three County Envirothons, and the current Road Culvert Inventory. Dan also spoke of the Group's outreach as noticed in the newly launched Website, our Curator's open communication network with all the neighboring environmental groups, our efforts in raising awareness to safeguard a local salamander migration, and our efforts toward making the Conewango Creek a designated Pennsylvania Water Trail. Dan said the group has accomplished much the year and that it has good momentum for the upcoming year.

WATERSHED CURATOR'S REPORT: Kim defined his role as defined by the Seneca Trail Resource and Conservation Council and briefly gave his personal history which has helped him see that land ownership here is defined by many small owners who are therefore the watershed managers and don't know they are. He defined his job description from the Council is to focus on attending local group meeting and to create open discussion among them, to educate, and to provide input for development of the Rapid Watershed Assessment. He encouraged each of us to stop, take a look back, and then to plan ahead.

MAIN PRESENTATION: Kim introduced the guest speakers, Mr. DeForest Warn and Dr. Tom Erlandson, who presented a pictorial history of the area chronicling the transformation from the 1950's to the present. Refreshments were served before the presentation and there was a question and answer period afterwards. Mr. Tom Booser, past president of the Cornplanter Chapter of Trout Unlimited from Warren County discussed his involvement with WINS Coalition working in Alleghany Forest on similar projects to ours and congratulated us on our work. He said they are currently working on 10 projects in the National Forest and that they are having a Trout and Cleans Streams Expo in Sheffield and invited us to join them. Before ending, there was a raffle drawing with prizes donated from Warren County Conservation District, Tom Osborne, and Liz Dropp. Thanks were conveyed to Ruth Lundin for the wonderful meeting place and refreshments.

Steve made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Dick seconded.