

Cascade Thornapple River Annual Meeting  
April 19, 2016 Noto's Banquet Hall

7:04 PM call to order

1. Review of last years meeting minutes. Motion was made to approve. Motion Carried and Approved.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mistake made with a couple of names who had paid but we're not recorded prior to the Spring Newsletter being sent out.
  - a. As of 4/1/16. Beginning balance \$19,000. \$7,000 in dues
  - b. Reviewed expenses including buoys
  - c. Donations of \$1,635.88 for fireworks which was all paid for thru donations.
3. Dissolved oxygen readings this winter were recorded at 5 ppm which is lower than expected. We felt our meter was bad. A new meter will be purchased for about \$1,500. Motion to approve spending from the budget. Approved and supported. Motion passed.
4. Need a new volunteer for the board to fill one vacancy. Nick Clark volunteered. Ron Hyde, Carl mast, Nick Clark. Motion to approve. Supported and passed.

7:14 PM

5. Airport stormwater update. System was turned on in the fall. In January the airport was contacted regarding suspicious foam water observations but they did not return our call. We have pictures that show sludge on the water. The MDEQ was contacted. Only one sample was obtained this season since there was very little snow. We have pictures of an observed scum line from 14 March. There is more all over in the creek behind the highway bridge noted an attendee. This is the same stuff that was observed in 2011-2012.

7:24 PM

6. Discussion regarding river navigation & the river channel.
  - a. Lost some buoys this winter. The Thorncrest buoy is gone. Picnic island buoy is also missing.
7. Discussion regarding the River drawdown.
  - a. River down began on Wednesday. Is this worthwhile? Hand vote of the audience: 9 were in favor of the drawdown beginning on wed/thurs. About the same number used Friday to work on the shorelines.. This year 2016 the date falls on Spring Break. We are permitted to move the date forward only not later. Ada drawdown is two weeks after us. STS Hydropower is not willing to lower the river longer. Vote taken for making a request to STS Hydropower to begin a drawdown earlier in 1. Spring only or 2. Both spring and fall. Both spring and fall was heavily supported by the crowd. The crowd commented that Friday and Saturday were requirements to have the river down for the full day.
8. Water testing....volunteers needed.

7:35 PM

9. Discussion regarding the use of a boat ramp.
  - a. There was a opportunity to purchase land for a dedicated boat ramp but it has since dissolved. Now, there is a proposal to have ramp access at one private

property location for a few weeks in the spring and fall. It is anticipated on or about 16 May 2016 there is a planning commission meeting to discuss. This is a short term solution.

- b. From a survey in 2001, 71 members said they would buy into a ramp opportunity. We would like to get an indicator of the demand from the audience. About 15 indicated interest.
- c. Be aware that no public access is planned. Also, this is not a day use opportunity.

7:42 PM

10. 2016 Event & Membership Activity.

- a. The 2015 Fireworks were successful. What is next? What does the group want for 2016?
- b. Fireworks. A noise complaint was received in 2015 but it did not lead to any penalties or citations.. Fireworks are/can be permitted.
- c. Overwhelming support by the audience. Donations are needed to cover the costs..
- d. Township Manager Swayze offered to get us a permit in writing in the event we have trouble with KCSD in the future.

11. Discussion of possible Corporate membership.

- a. Never has been in the past. Something the board will discuss to see if there is something that would work for the Association.

12. The golf course has cut trees along the bank and much of the debris has ended up in the river. The township says they are allowed to cut each year. It was commented by a member of the audience that the cutting was done at night. Ben from the Township says they do not have any power for enforcement. Someone should report it to the Sheriff when the violation is observed.

7:56 PM

13. Discussion of the Special Assessment District - There was a long explanation of the SAD. Some questions were raised about dredging of the river and specifically about dredging that the railroad trestle bridge. "The river inspection conducted last year indicates things are in good shape. There should not be any issue cleaning out the east side."

14. We currently have 105 signatures that have been gathered out of 302 possible. Our goal of 155 looks very good. We are going to only collect signatures for 10 more days. Then the association will take our information to the township.

15. Any regulations about fertilizer use? Yes. Ben from the township addressed the question about how fees can be accessed to be used for different purposes all related to preservation of the health of the river.

16. Explanation about the potential plan for weed control in the SAD. Is a Millage request an option? Yes, but the township is not in support as they have other more urgent needs that will have a greater impact on Township residents.

8:28 PM

17. Guest Eric Pessel speaks regarding septic systems.

- a. 8:58 presentation ends.
  - 18. The CTRA Website can be used to make donations and pay dues. The Website is being reviewed to be revamped soon. We are considering adding safety information and boating rules among other improvements.
  - 19. A question from the audience about How to kill Virginia creeper?
    - a. Many opinions were provided.
  - 20. Discussion about boater safety on the river..
    - a. Comments and discussion about Ski boats on the river with ballast tanks. Audience member commented on the need to slow the boats down particularly on the south end of the river.
    - b. Another audience comment about ski boats operating with No spotter.
    - c. The river is managed by "Sensible" enforcement only. Kent County Sheriff has jurisdiction.
  - 21. No zebra mussels were found in any sizeable quantity at river down. This is a major change from previous years.
  - 22. Raffle of the donated gifts and items were distributed to the attendees.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:26.