



Crosswicks - Doctors Creek Watershed Association, Inc.

Newsletter

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Watershed Association Adopts New Logo

By Marc Covitz, Chairman

In an effort to promote the Association, the Board of Directors had originally sought community input for a logo design. While we haven't been able to figure out exactly where or what the disconnect in the community outreach was, the need still existed even after the May 15th cut-off date for the logo contest. At that point, it was determined that a professional graphic artist should be contracted to help develop the logo.

Karen Riley, a former liaison from Plumsted Township to the predecessor *Greenway Regional Planning Group*, was contacted and she enthusiastically responded to our inquiry. Karen, owner of KFR Communications LLC in Plumsted, and graphic artist Andrew Gioulis took the three goals of the Greenway Plan and formulated the triad logo arrangement as can be seen in the heading of this newsletter issue: top-left – “preserving water quality”; top-right – “preserving historic vistas and sites”; bottom – “development of trail systems”.

The silhouettes of a bird in-flight and people in active recreational pursuits complete the visual story. The bright colors engage the viewer's eye immediately.

Honorable Mention – One community volunteer, Mrs. Alice Wikoff of Allentown, showed some sketches of ideas that she came up with. One of her sketches was also a triad arrangement – very similar to what is shown above. Hers was a totally independent concept from KFR's. But it goes to show that great minds do think alike! Thanks, Alice, for your contribution to the Association's branding activity – we appreciate the time and effort put into that work!

The logo will be used on our website, e-mail, letterhead, printed brochures, business cards, apparel, and merchandise that will be offered for sale through our website's on-line store.

First Watershed Association Event Planned

***The Kenneth H. Francis Memorial Kayak & Canoe
Race & Tour***



Sunday, November 1, 2009 – rain or shine – beginning at 8:00 AM at Oakford Lake in New Egypt (Plumsted Township), the CDCWA sponsors its first canoe & kayak race & tour which will benefit the *Kenneth H. Francis Environmental Scholarship Fund* and the Watershed Association. The **race** is a 9-mile downstream trip ending at the Provinceline Road bridge. The **tour** is between 2 and 5 miles that will travel on the upstream portion

of Oakford Lake and the Crosswicks Creek in a wide section. Registration and additional information is available at <http://www.ccdcgreenway.org/registration.html>

Run That By Me...

By Marc Covitz, Chairman

Febuary 15, 2009: Eighteen people showed up for a good run yesterday. Great weather and I was pleasantly surprised regarding how much trail there is along the Crosswicks Creek Greenway (Upper & Middle Reach). Most of the trail looks to have been created by hunters but could easily be converted to regular trail. Unbelievable scenery along the Deep Run. High banks – 20 feet at least in some areas. Even an old stone bridge on an old road back there. Probably part of the old Hutchinson Farm. The County actually owns the connector of the road along Deep Run so it is possible to go from the Provinceline Road / CR-537 County park land all the way to Arneytown-Hornerstown Road on public property.

I actually started the run from the County piece on Holmes Mill Road just north of CR-537. Went west and headed to the canoe access point on 537, then over the creek via 537 and back on to the County property. Made my way over to the Provinceline Road / CR-537

County park land via Al Hutchins' piece and the other piece that make up the hole in the donut over there. Then went up Deep Run to the Hutchinson Road Greenway Trail Access park land. Crossed Arneytown-Hornerstown Road and continued north along the east bank of the Crosswicks. Just after Arneytown-Hornerstown Road there is very little County property for about a third of a mile. After that, it opens up again. Behind the Lenhardt and Search farms is the most beautiful open expanse of flood plain you can imagine. And I bet not a soul knows about it. Nice open trail back there as well amidst tall grasses. I got all the way up to Historic Walnford, on public property.

Could really do some nice trail work back there. I can't believe the County has not begun doing anything there yet. Not really much to do other than clear some areas where there is overgrowth of briars. Otherwise, as I said before, much of the "trails" is already there.

Editors Note: This is the first of a series of feature articles that will report on the conditions that are observed as chairman Marc Covitz takes jaunts in various areas of the watershed.

Introduction / Membership Brochures Available!

By Greg Westfall, Secretary



A combination *Introduction and Membership Brochure* being distributed to venues throughout the watershed was printed in mid-August and its distribution begun. Look for it in such places as public libraries, local businesses, banks, town halls, bed & breakfast locations, etc. that exist in the 15 municipalities encompassing the Crosswicks Watershed.

If anyone has ideas of good places that have high people traffic and good visibility and/or that have an aspect of recreation that could be sustained within the watershed, please let us know via [e-mail](#), phone call, or written correspondence.

Acquisition of ~250 Acres in Plumsted Imminent

By Marc Covitz, Chairman

Three properties along Long Swamp Road (Plumsted Township) are in the works for preservation via the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust and the US Dept. Of Defense. The total acquisition will be about 250 acres. These are important acquisitions as they contain the headwaters of the Jumping Brook which is one of the major tributaries of the Upper Crosswicks.

Jumping Brook meets up with the South Run in New Hanover Twp (Cookstown) just north of Bunting Bridge Road. The South Run then meets up with the North Run just west of the Ocean County line – the point at which the North Run becomes Crosswicks Creek.

Click on <http://www.planning.co.ocean.nj.us/natlands-prop.htm> for more information.

Monmouth County Parks, SADC, and Princeton Nurseries – Will Trails Traverse Preserved Farmlands?

By Marc Covitz, Chairman



There seems to be a bit of a glitch with regard to the preservation of the Princeton Nurseries (PN) lands and the development of trails on them. In a nutshell, according to the June minutes from the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board meeting, the PN preservation started as a straight farmland preservation deal through the SADC.

As you may know, any land preserved via the SADC does not allow any use (including trails) on the land other than farming. As we learned, land for trails must be subdivided from the farmland preservation piece and preserved separately by another way. Here in Monmouth County, this has been done via State Green Acres funds; then, for the most part, the land is turned over to the Monmouth County Parks System. The SADC is concerned that if they allow trails on the SADC preserved pieces, it will set a precedent for how trails within and adjacent to preserved farmland will be handled in the future.

It seems that a different arrangement is being attempted on the PN lands. It appears that there is a desire to have public access to all of the PN lands (whether they are County owned or straight farmland preservation via the SADC). This makes a lot of sense as there are miles of farm roads on the PN lands that can be used for trails. Construction costs would only be signage (trail markers). The July minutes (under New Business) report on a presentation given by the Monmouth County Parks System on how successful they have been in incorporating trails into their actively farmed parklands.

For more in-depth information, visit the following links –

<http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/24\MCADB Meeting Minutes 06-03-09.pdf>

<http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/24\MCADB Meeting Minutes 07-01-09.pdf>

Watershed Association Seeks Private and Corporate Donors

By Walter Helfrecht, Treasurer

It has not been lost on us that many in our community have fallen upon hard times from loss of jobs, foreclosures, furloughs and shortened work weeks, reductions in pay and so on. As a non-profit, we know this makes it difficult for some willing folk to support our work.

The entire operation of the Watershed Association obviously cannot rely on a single contributor base – we must have diversity in our revenue stream just like any other business. Day-to-day operations involve website hosting and on-line transaction fees, office expenses, publication of documents, postage, etc. While we have tried to keep all of these costs as minimal as possible, they do cut into the available working capital nonetheless.

If at all possible, won't you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Watershed Association

by December 31, 2009? Visit our [Donations](#) webpage for more details. As projects are established, there will be opportunity to make specific *Designated* donations toward those projects. *General* donations are, of course, always welcomed and will be used to supplement project and current operating expenses as deemed necessary. ***We invite individual and corporate donors to support our work, for both are beneficiaries located in the same watershed and facing the same challenges!***

In addition to cash donations, the Watershed Association will also accept bequests from estates, real property gifts, beneficiary payouts from annuities, or other matured investment instruments. Please contact us by US mail, [e-mail](#), or phone to discuss any particulars. We thank you for all that you can do to support the CDCWA!

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Land use ordinance drew huge crowd in Hamilton

Published: Wednesday, June 17, 2009
The Trentonian

By JOE D'AQUILA
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — The township council needed to take its show on the road last night to the ballroom at the Nottingham firehouse to accommodate the crowd that gathered to see them approve a land use ordinance.

The only thing is, the ordinance, or one nearly exactly like it, has already been on the books for about four years.

The law sets the development standards for the Rural Resource Conservation district created in the southern tip of the township near the Crosswicks Creek.

The district was created by ordinance in 2005, but there were some issues regarding notification of property owners in the area at that time, and the re-adoption of the ordinance sought to rectify that.

The designation was put in place to slow development in the township, protecting that area's more rural quality. Development restrictions allow only one home per 6.7 acres, and a property must be at least 12 acres to be subdivided.

The re-adoption of the ordinance was done in part because two land developers hoping to bring higher-density projects to parcels there are in the process of suing the township, and the clarification on the notifications takes aim at one of their arguments.



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