

Dear HCWA Members: □

Newsletter October 2, 2003

Next HCWA meeting will be October 9 at 7:00 PM at the Exeter Borough Building 1101 Wyoming Ave., Exeter.

A few important notes:

Friday and Saturday is the Watershed Conference in Hershey. □ I will be driving down on Saturday morning (Oct. 5). □ Any one wanting to go with me call me Friday 654-0933 and leave a message if I'm not home.

There will be a public meeting about development of water trails which encourages use of the river on October 15 at the Exeter Borough Building at 6:00 PM. □ It seem interesting! □ We need to use our waterways more and that's a great way to educate the people. □ For more information please read the attachment.

The corner of Lehigh & Anthracite has been drained of water for the first time this summer. □ Exeter was fortunate that a contractor was looking to get rid of some modified stone and Councilman Rich Murawski asked him to dump it in that corner. □ Then he had the street department form a dike along the edge of both roads ("L" shaped) and they sand bagged the dike with over 300 sand bags to secure it. □ The borough pumper the water on the road to the other side of the dike. □ While this is not a permanent solution, it does resolve the problem of water on the road. □ When there is heavy rain they will need to pump the roads but the situation is improved. □ They cleaned the road on Wednesday. □ The council will not stop there more meetings with DEP are set up to find the permanent solution.

We need a break in the weather to complete the area of the creek to be maintained above and below Schooley Ave. Bridge. □ Pray for a couple good weeks of dry weather. □ Exeter had a mowing tractor demo last week along this area. □ It has an extended reach arm of 28' and can reach over the embankment. □ There is a 10 foot right of way from the top of the embankment of the creek in which we can drive this machine to keep the banks from becoming overgrown with knot weed and other invasive species. □ Council is considering purchasing this with help of Grow Greener Grant. □ We need to see what other towns are interested.

I am attaching a file to download. □ It's from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation giving free shrubs and trees to nonprofit organizations to be used for stream side buffer project sites. □ I'm sure we can get the shrubs, but given the fact that flood protection doesn't want anything except grass to grow in the creek and 10' on the top of the embankment, I need to check with the officials if planting ten feet back from the top of the embankment will still be acceptable. □ The purpose of a stream side buffer is to filter pollutants from the water draining to the creek by use of natural plants. □ I think this will still be effective even with a

10 ' set back. If you are interested please email me ASAP. The shrubs are red & black chokeberry, grey dogwood, winterberry holly, arrowwood viburnum and green ash tree. Specifics are on the attachment. Remember they must be planted along the stream. The orders must be put in soon and must be picked up by October 31. HCWA can organize a volunteer planting to put all in the ground one day on a weekend. A lot of Scouts and Key Club are looking for volunteer hours and this would qualify because of its environmental value.

Exeter Council will be amending the litter ordinance to clearly specify no littering of yard waste in the creek. Any yard waste in the creek decays, becoming more sediment, raising the creek bed and adding to the ponding problems. As we work on reestablishing the original "as built " elevations of the creek, it is important for the public, especially those living along the creek to understand that throwing the grass clippings and tree trimmings will raise the creek bed elevations and increase ponding. Even yard waste on the banks eventually makes its way to the creek bed downstream when high water carries it away. Exeter Borough collects yard waste for free and residents should use this service provided. Soon you will see no dumping signs posted on roadways intersecting the creek and receive flyers about the ammendment. Even though your creek isn't flowing yet, we are all working towards that goal, so start practicing good habits now. Don't throw yard waste over the embankment and ask you neighbor to do the same. If you see any lawn care companies illegally dumping yard waste into the creek, please contact me 654-0933 or the police 911.

I appologize that the newsletter isn't in its regular format, but it was important to get this information to you and October is my busiest month for grants.

Sincerely,
Karen Szwast
Secretary/Treasurer
HCWA