

CLIFF CLIMBER ACTIVISM!!

By Chris N Tara Mezzanotte

DELAWARE WATER GAP - On 6/22 Monday – a beautiful evening for a climb... with a banner for a photo op. We all practice "leave no trace behind"...just photo memories! We look forward to telling you about our climbers soon adding more shots to this collection as they come in. Credit goes to Benjamin Emmett - climber and good person extraordinaire!!



!!HOW CAN YOU HELP? When the NJDOT delivers the Updated Visual Impact Assessment some time this summer (it has been delayed again???), we will need big community response. BE INFORMED & BUILD OUR TEAM! When the NJDOT delivers the Updated Visual Impact Assessment some time this summer (it has been delayed again???), we will need big community response. BE INFORMED & BUILD OUR TEAM!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/I80DWGCoalition/>



Slate Belt Rising Donates Supplies to Salvation Army

By Michael Ortoski

Pen Argyl, PA (June 25, 2020) – As part of their COVID Relief efforts, Slate Belt Rising (SBR) has donated \$1,000 in supplies to the Salvation Army. Supplies included paper products, cleaning supplies, masks, and personal care items that will help the Salvation Army as they continue to serve Slate Belt residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. "There are various organizations throughout the Slate Belt that play an important role in supporting our communities and residents. This contribution is one way in which we plan on partnering with local organizations as we navigate through these difficult times," said Stephen Reider, Director of Slate Belt Rising.

The Salvation Army has remained opened throughout the pandemic and has served 212 families from March through May. Services include weekly food distribution on the first four Tuesdays of every month from 10 AM until Noon, emergency food as needed, financial assistance and guidance, and intensive case management through their Pathway of Hope initiative. Office hours at the Salvation Army in Pen Argyl are 9 AM until 2 PM daily.

COVID Relief funds were secured by re-purposing funds that were budgeted for other projects. "These are extraordinary times. Our committee felt as though we could have more of an impact by using these funds to support local businesses and organizations, providing opportunities for free meals and help for the municipalities that are served through the program," said Reider.

Slate Belt Rising, a program of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, is the state's first and only multi-municipal Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Slate Belt Rising sponsors and partners include Waste Management, Fidelity Bank, ESSA Bank & Trust, the County of Northampton and the Community Services Block Grant through the PA DCED.



Krista Nagy, Pathway of Hope and Crisis Care Case Manager, Salvation Army of Pen Argyl and Stephen Reider, Director, Slate Belt Rising



Friends of Minsi Lake Upper Mt. Bethel TWSP Ed Nelson & Dave Due, Parks & Rec. Dir Brian Cope, Senator Mario Scavello, State Rep. Joe Emrick, Timothy Schaffer from PA Fish & Boat.



Friends of Minsi Lake Senator Mario Scavello



Friends of Minsi Lake State Rep. Joe Emrick

Minsi Lake

Continued from page 1

Lamont McClure remarks: "Shimmering, shining, glistening in the Summer sun, Lake Minsi's revitalization is a testament to preservation, perseverance and pandemic progress. Upon taking office, I forthrightly declared that Northampton County's future would be green, and before the pandemic caused by Coronavirus, our budget reflected our commitment to fighting warehouse proliferation and the ever increasing dangerous truck traffic. So far, we have committed \$1 million in grants to municipal parks, \$1.5 million for improvements to county parks and \$2 million for the preservation of open and green space.

Indeed, with respect to Minsi Lake, in 2018 we committed \$500,000 to recreational improvement, which has begun but will continue over the next 2 years. Northampton County's future is indeed green.

Many thanks were given to Senator Mario Scavello and State Rep. Joe Emrick for securing the 4 million dollars for the construction of the dam to get this project

started. The dam and the fish habitat structures are considered phase I of the entire project by Friends of Minsi Lake. Phase II will consist of new restrooms, ADA picnic tables, grills, signage, elect power to east shore parking lot for lighting, wood fencing to replace metal gaurdrails, redesigned/rehab trail system and more.

Minsi Lake is a 117-acre reservoir situated in Upper Mount Bethel, owned by the Commonwealth of PA and has been leased to Northampton County as part of its public parks system since 1975. Minsi Lake, and its surrounding 194 acres of woodlands, is one of eighteen parks & conservation areas managed by the Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation.

The lake is 117 acres and one of only three lakes in the Lehigh Valley open for public fishing & boating. The lake was drained in 2017 so the fifty-year-old dam and spillway could be replaced. Pennsylvania Fish & Boat restocked the lake with rainbow trout, golden rainbow trout, large-mouth bass fingerlings and forage fish, such as minnows and golden shiners in March 2020.

It is well maintained by PA Fish & Boat. 194 Acres, PA DCNR and of course Northampton County Parks & Rec.