

May 10, 2020

Dear Clerk Hovan and Mayor Nemeth,

RE: Stockton Inn Development

We are pleased to have Stockton Borough as a municipal member of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council (www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org).

As you know, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Lower Delaware River, and three main tributaries to the River – the Tinicum, Tohickon and Paunacussing – were added to the Act in 2000. The governing body of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River, namely the Management Council, follows issues that could impact River resources.

We have been following the news that there could be a future site plan to consider for a major project affiliated with the Stockton Inn. Besides seeing the news, the developer noticed us, as we keep a Post Office Box in Stockton. While the project is in a conceptual stage and it does not appear to be anything to comment on at this time, please be reminded that Wild & Scenic should be noticed when formal plans are submitted to the Borough. This will be especially important if the proposal will increase impervious cover, and as a result, impact storm water management. Future comments would potentially be submitted by the National Park Service as it pertains to Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Please be aware there are two documents that would be of interest to your Council, your professionals, and land use board members. First, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Plan is the document agreed to by all municipal and agency parties at the time the River was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River; the Plan lists six primary goals for conserving the River, including water quality, open space preservation, and protection of natural resources.

The full plan can be found at:

<https://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/resources/documents/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-management-plan>. See page 24 of the Plan:

Water Quality: Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurably degrading and improve it where practical. Policies: (1) Achieve the highest practical state and federal water quality designation for the river and its tributaries. (2) Manage point discharge and storm water non-point runoff to minimize degradation of the river. (3) Encourage the use of Best Management Practices in the areas within the river corridor to minimize water quality degradation from storm water runoff. (4) Encourage the use of Best Management Practices for activities other than agricultural that could result in water quality degradation from storm water runoff. (5) Discourage inappropriate development in floodplain, wetlands, steep slopes and buffer strips along the Lower Delaware River and its tributaries.

Second, our Stewardship Handbook can be found at

<https://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/resources/documents/guides/stewardship-handbook>. Pages 10-15 of the Handbook also includes commentary about storm water management and water quality.

Last, Sarah Bursky (Sarah_Bursky@nps.gov) is our National Park Service Liaison. She will be in touch later in the process when site plans are submitted. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Maryann Carroll
Executive Director
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Preserving, protecting and promoting the Delaware River Valley
www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org
www.delawariverscenicbyway.org
www.delawariverwatertrail.org