

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179  
Oxford, NJ 07863

**January 8, 2019  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Corey Tierney opened the meeting at 5:10 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** David Detrick, John Halmi, Michael Helbing, William Hann, Raymond Tobaygo, Matthew Davis

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**REORGANIZATION:**

Ray Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Dave Detrick to approve the same slate of officers as last year (listed below). Motion carried unanimously.

Board Chairperson - Michael Helbing, Chairperson

Vice Chairperson - Matthew Davis, Vice Chairperson

Board Secretary - David Detrick, Board Secretary

**MINUTES:** The December 11, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Halmi noted that the date of the next meeting at the end of the minutes hadn't been updated. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Detrick to approve the minutes, as corrected with Mr. Davis and Mr. Tobaygo abstaining. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Morris Canal Committee

- The next Parks Foundation volunteer work day is Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet at Bread Lock Park at 8:30 am.
- Mr. Detrick told the Board about the new Story Walk project funded by the Morris Canal Committee at Bread Lock Park. The story is "A Full Hand" by Tom Yezerski and will be 16 panels/sites along the trail, approximately 150' apart. It will start at the canal boat with an Intro at the beginning and credits at the end. Each page will be printed on plastic with an aluminum backing, mounted on a 4"x4" post at a height that kids can see/read.
- Meeting next week with the electrician at Plane 9. Once those repairs are complete, the rotted timber can be replaced.
- There was discussion regarding the Woo property and canal trail off of Brass Castle Road. If the trail is marked there, the vegetative buffer and fence would need to be installed first.
- Mr. Helbing said that there is a disconnected section of the canal towpath on a power line right of way that connects to Presidential Estates. Mr. Helbing said Mr. Tierney should look into getting an easement from the power company.
- Mr. Helbing said Henry Jewell has a large collection of old, unpublished photos of the Morris Canal. Mr. Helbing suggested the county contact him to request copies and permission to use the photos for archival purposes.
- The Planning Department has the ability to use the Arc GIS story map feature. Mr. Tierney has some possible ideas for it in the future.
- Mr. Hann received a digital copy of the Morris Canal Greenway Plan from NJTPA. He said that there was not a lot of detail and it only contained very general information about each site. The

county's 25-Year Plan was much more detailed. Mr. Tierney said the link to the study can be sent out via email.

## Trails

- Mr. Helbing has been using the Geo Web application on his phone. It shows both county and state property lines; trails can be drawn directly on the map to give it a degree of authenticity.
- Mr. Trontis has a meeting with Peter Dolan from NY/NJ Trail Conference in Union County on March 25<sup>th</sup>; Parks Foundation Trustees were invited to attend. Mr. Trontis would like to schedule a maintenance workshop for Parks Foundation Members and volunteers with Mr. Dolan. From Roaring Rock to Terhune/West Oxford Mountain/Warren Highlands Trail would be a good area to focus on since it is unimproved and offers a lot of challenging areas. A walk through to scout the trail will likely be done ahead of time.

Mr. Helbing discussed the S130 & S190 trainings that Forest Fire Service trainees have to participate in. Once completed, the trainees go out for "Bang a Rock Day" to build fire lines, which are basically trails. Mr. Helbing thought it might be an option to get assistance in trail blazing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Oostdyk Property - Jim Oostdyk from OK4WD contacted Mr. Tierney to see if the county would be interested in purchasing his commercial property along the Pohatcong Creek for open space with fishing access. The property does not connect to any current open space properties and does not fit into the Open Space Plan. The Board suggested referring Mr. Oostdyk to the state or municipality to see if they are interested in acquiring the property.

Risko - Mr. Tierney met with Bill Risko regarding neighbors that were hunting on the remaining portion of the Meadows at Mansfield parcel just above the canal. Mr. Risko proposed that the county acquire the remaining 13-acres and consider a land swap with him for his portion of the canal. Details will need to be considered and reviewed with County Counsel, but as long as there are no objections to the concept, Mr. Tierney will proceed.

Mr. Risko told Mr. Tierney that the neighboring Egnat property has been vacant, so Mr. Tierney will look into who currently owns it.

There was discussion regarding the new housing development and connecting the trail. Mr. Helbing believes there is an existing easement, but Mr. Tierney noted that nothing came up in title search or survey regarding an easement. Mr. Tierney suggested building the trail up to the rocks and letting the owners of the development take it from there.

No Smoking Law - There is a new state law that smoking is not permitted in public parks (county or municipal). Enforcement will be a challenge. If not enforced, it holds the county liable. No smoking signs will be installed at the parks; the signs will include that violators will be subject to a fine.

Cultural & Heritage Update - Mr. Tierney is in the process of getting approval to hire an Assistant Administrator of Cultural & Heritage Affairs. Main responsibilities will include overseeing curator responsibilities with Shippen Manor or any other county museums and administer County History Re-grant Program, among other things. Cultural & Heritage Commission may be reconstituted eventually.

## **Administrator's Report**

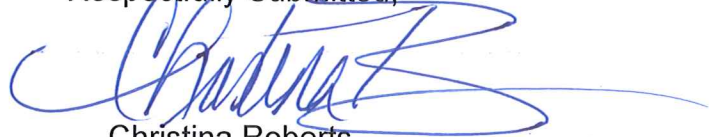
- Barbieri - Moving ahead; conference call scheduled with the HMUA.
- Singley - Survey and environmental ordered.
- Cacciapaglia - There was a survey gore discovered that will need to be excluded; environmental to be done next.

- Logothetis - No response from landowner. Mr. Tierney will reach out to him again.
- Albulescu - Seller's attorney retired and transferred project to another attorney. Mr. Tierney now has the new attorney's contact info, so project is moving ahead again.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk