

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**January 10, 2017  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**NOMINATIONS:**

Board Chairperson - Charles Fineran motioned, seconded by Dave Detrick to nominate Michael Helbing as Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson - Dave Detrick motioned, seconded by Charles Fineran to nominate Matthew Davis as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried.

Board Secretary - Bill Hann motioned, seconded by Raymond Tobaygo to nominate David Detrick as Board Secretary. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** The December 13, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Raymond Tobaygo, David Detrick, and William Hann abstaining. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**Morris Canal Committee**

- Plane 6 - Work continues onsite, as weather permits. There is a road cleared to drive back to the turbine chamber. The shed is ready for demolition.
- Plane 9 - Mr. Detrick said they are planning to look at the Master Plan to see what the next big project will be, such as demolition of the existing garage, installation of a maintenance shed, parking behind the house, a restroom in the basement of the house, turnaround area for buses, adjustment to the access road that connects to the Miller's property.
- Port Murray Preserve - Brian Hanisak, a neighbor of Port Murray Preserve, spoke to Mr. Helbing about people walking their dog in the park, off-leash. It was suggested that a sign be posted near the kiosk with basic park rules and regulations.
- Phillipsburg Canal Trail Ribbon Cutting - Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the trail head on South Main Street in Phillipsburg, NJ.

## Trails

- Warren Highlands Trail - Mr. Davis passed around a copy of the Warren Highlands Trail maps and descriptions to Board members for their review. Mr. Davis would like to include history, local businesses, etc. in the guide to help promote use of the trail. Mr. Tierney suggested that they focus on the positives of the trail and what the County has accomplished. Building awareness of the trail and getting the public and local businesses involved, will help gain interest and support.
- White Lake - Mr. Helbing met one of the new interns at White Lake. The perimeter trail is marked and split rail fence was installed around the fens near the Marlworks, the main parking lot and ancillary parking lots were both expanded.
- Mr. Helbing inquired about the Health Department 30-minute walks. He said that they end without any directions to turn around or where to go next. The walks run concurrently with existing trails, but should be marked to follow the corresponding brochures so people don't get lost. The Health Department would like to do more of these 30-minute walks at other County Parks, so any suggestions can be forwarded to them to help improve the initiative.
- Mr. Tierney received a complaint from Knot Just Flies, a local tack store near White Lake. They feel that the turnaround by the boat launch isn't large enough for some trailers. Mr. Tierney said there haven't been any problems, but if there are in the future, the turnaround can be reevaluated.
- They also said the gates aren't always open by sunrise. Mr. Tierney asked the Board how they felt about opening the gates at White Lake a half-hour before sunrise and close a half-hour after sunset. He also noted that RVC is also looking into doing organized night paddling on the lake. The Board felt that if it is an RVC sponsored program, they agree to allow after-hours activities on the lake, but not just to accommodate someone who wants to night fish.
- Shoreline fishing, ice-skating, and ice-fishing were also discussed. Mr. Tierney will speak to Mr. Canace about the adjusting the gate hours and his thoughts on shoreline fishing. Mr. Tierney will also check into other county's policies regarding ice-skating and ice-fishing and report back.
- Hills of Independence - Mr. Tierney received a phone call from a neighbor that is concerned about the trail head near her home. Mr. Tierney explained the plans for trail access and told her the only planned parking area is on Old Allamuchy Road.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

Appalachian Trail Community Day Event - Saturday, April 22, 2017 in downtown Blairstown.

Preservation Day Event - Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Van Nest Hoff-Vannatta in Harmony Township.

Park Fest - Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Bread Lock Park. There will be music, cars, local authors and artists, history groups, and vendors.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### Maintenance

Bread Lock Park Barn - The stabilization/restoration project should begin in three to four weeks and should be completed by June. The barn will then be able to be used for storage and events.

O'Dowd Canal Greenway Trail - Mr. Tierney is waiting to hear back from the contractor to see when they will be able to begin the Greenway Trail project.

## Acquisition Updates

Jonestown Road - Closed on 12/29/16. Mr. Tierney will have the NJ Youth Corps post boundary signs. Planning, development, and marking of trails can begin soon. For safety reasons, the town will be fencing off the mine pits and should put grates over the deeper mine shafts.

Terhune - Under contract; closing should take place within the next few weeks.

Benbrook - The Nature Conservancy is interested in partnering in the acquisition. Appraisals were sent to TNC today for their review.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk