

Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2014

Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, New Jersey 07863

Members Present: Michael Helbing Raymond Tobaygo
 William Hann Matthew Davis
 Charles Fineran John Halmi

Members Absent: David Detrick

Staff: Corey Tierney and Sue Beall

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the clerk. This meeting was held at the office of the Department of Land Preservation, 500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford, New Jersey.

The Introductory Statement and roll call were read into the record also by the clerk, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Fineran nominated Mr. Helbing, second by Mr. Halmi. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helbing took over the meeting by calling for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Tobaygo, seconded by Mr. Halmi, nominated Mr. Detrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helbing then called for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Tobaygo nominated Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tobaygo to maintain the same time schedule. This was seconded by Mr. Halmi and carried unanimously.

The meeting schedule was approved on a motion by Mr. Davis with a second by Mr. Halmi. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2013, were approved on a motion by Mr. Hann second by Mr. Halmi. Mr. Davis abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cindy Meakem a coordinator for Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ and Chris Helwig, Warren County Environmental Health Department proposed that the Board make a recommendation to the BCF to make the parks smoke free. Mr. Helbing noted that while he is totally against smoking, he does not feel that this is the proper time to ban smoking. Mr. Fineran agrees that smoking is deplorable, however now is not time to ban people from smoking, especially since

everyone is being encouraged to get out and enjoy all of the open space. It seems like a deterrent. Discussion continued and Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to table the decision until a later time when all members have had time to think about it and weigh the repercussions. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None this evening.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ◆ Morris Canal Committee – Mr. Detrick is absent this evening and there is no report.

- ◆ Trails – Mr. Helbing advised that a meeting of some of those interested in Highlands Trail met here in this office. Among the attendees were: Jenny Felton; Dave Dech; Corey Tierney; Joe Winnicki; Assistant Director of Parks and Forestry John Trontis; Frank Henion Northern Boundaries; Rich Osborn, Green Acres; Diane Hewitt Lowery. The group studied acquisition. Because the trail was re-routed, Mr. Dech will supply an up-to-date version of the map similar to that used by the Morris Canal Committee detailing the route, properties already acquired and also those to be considered for acquisition. At the Planning Board meeting in December, Mr. Dech described the trail and noted there are targeted lots, some of which are no longer needed. The Warren Highlands Trail is marked all the way to within a short distance from Belvidere Road. Next Thursday Mr. Helbing and Ms. Felton will meet with the owner of the property that borders Belvidere Road to determine if everyone is on board for the trail marking. The Committee then discussed the problems of continuing the trail up to and through Merrill Creek. Mr. Helbing advised that he was going to discuss using Harkers Hollow to cut across country with the owners. Mr. Davis stated that he would like to be part of that discussion. Mr. Hann advised that he knew the owners quite well and would be happy to also go to see them. He will make arrangements for an appointment.

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Nothing this evening.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ Acquisition and Status of Projects – The Mann easement has been approved by the BCF. Wolf/Kanach rejected the first offer and there has not yet been a response to the second. Green Acres is moving forward with appraisals on 60 acres of O’Dowd along Route 57. There will be a trail easement on the balance of the property. The Effi Solar application for the property between Bread Lock Park and O’Dowd was not approved and they are currently battling for approval which would provide an easement in that area. Route 57 Partnership will be closing this month. Mr. Tierney had a meeting with Mr. Handlos on Friday and made an offer for the vacant lots only. They agreed and the resolution will appear next week on the Freeholder Meeting agenda. Mr. Tierney met with the Reads, property owners on Harts Lane, and there are a couple of issues to be cleared. There are no updates on Pool. A meeting with Crouse in Washington Township near Meadow Breeze Park is to be rescheduled. Mr. Tierney had a meeting with the owner of the Store House, Mr. Wu, and he is considering an easement (Brass Castle Road). An offer has been made by Green Acres on Independent Land Holdings. Appraisals have been sent to Green Acres on the Jonestown Road property. We are waiting to

hear from Terhune. The Freise property closed in December. The Farmers Fair easement has been sent for recording.

The tree removal has been authorized at Plane 10. Plane 9 excavating must wait until spring. The Planning Department will provide a plan for a parking lot in the Strykers Road area. The Hoffman Road parking area has not been cleared due to weather. Work is being conducted on a site plan for a parking area at Florence Kuipers Memorial Park. In the spring RFP's will be sent out for the roof at BLP and some stump removal.

Mr. Hann inquired about Janeco. Mr. Tierney advised that we will return to that property after we close Route 57 Partnership. Mr. Tierney had a meeting with Julie Zeculic who is working on a welfare to work program and he is currently looking for uses for that program.

Green Acres is unable to pursue acquisition of the BASF property in White Township due to "pay-to-play" rules and donations previously made to legislators. They are in receipt of a no further action letter from DEP regarding contamination. Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, urging Mr. Tierney to look into the acquisition of the BASF property and based on information provided, make it a priority. Motion carried unanimously.

Mention was made of the Pumpkin Sling and Mr. Tierney stated why it is not an allowable agricultural use of a preserved farm.

Mr. Tierney distributed a draft of new Rules and Conduct advising the Board that this will be a topic for ongoing discussion after everyone has had an opportunity to read them.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Tobaygo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Chairman Helbing adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan W. Beall