

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**February 5, 2019  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dave Detrick opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** David Detrick, John Halmi, William Hann, Raymond Tobaygo, Charles Fineran

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**Guests:** Bob Canace, Susi Tilley, Joel McGreen, Drew Leidich, Elizabeth Roy

**MINUTES:** The January 8, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

**WHITE LAKE UPDATE** - Bob Canace, Susi Tilley, Joel McGreen, and Drew Leidich from Ridge & Valley Conservancy attended the meeting to provide an update on White Lake.

Trails Map - Mr. Leidich is in the process of updating the White Lake trails map (draft trail map was distributed). Any suggestions or feedback is welcome and should be submitted to Mr. Tierney.

Dock - The dock is ordered and should be installed and ready for opening day.

Events Brochure - Ms. Tilley distributed copies of the draft event brochure for 2019. The brochure includes events at all of RVC's sites, but most are held at White Lake.

Kayaking - Kayaking programs have been very successful. Kayaking will be offered on Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings, spring through fall. Wearing of life jackets is enforced.

Dogs - The park rules state that all dogs must be leashed, but Mr. Canace requested changing the rule to say that all dogs must be under owner's control, whether it be leashed or voice control. Mr. Tierney will look into state laws and municipal ordinances to determine if the wording should be changed.

Ice Fishing - Mr. Tierney asked Mr. Canace whether there are any concerns or issues with ice fishing that the Board should address at this time. Mr. Canace replied that the ice fishermen who fish at White Lake are experienced and have not caused any issues. A sign is posted when the ice is thick enough to fish on. The activity is working well as is and without the need for further limitations.

Fees for Activities - RVC requested to change the terminology from donation to fees for some of the activities they provide at White Lake. The fees are nominal and all money collected goes directly back into the program funds to purchase equipment or supplies. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to allow RVC to charge nominal fees to provide activities at White Lake (after consulting with Mr. Tierney), that pertain to education, health, and the arts. Motion carried. Mr. Tierney requested that RVC provide an annual accounting of all fees collected and Mr. Canace agreed.

Hunting Signs - Mr. Canace asked the Board if they would approve signage alerting hikers that hunting is permitted in the area and for hunters to be aware of hikers on the multi-use trails. Orange pamphlets can be created seasonally to include hunting dates. Mr. Canace will submit the proposed signage to Mr. Tierney for review.

## **MOHICAN FARM**

Issue with Dam – Based upon legal advice from County Counsel and Special Counsel, even if RVC owns the portion of the land with the dam on it, the County would be partially liable for the maintenance and repair of the dam under the NJ Safe Dam Act and applicable case law, as well as for downstream damages in the event of the dam's failure, because the County benefits from the use and control of the lake/dam. Therefore, an alternative option is being explored by RVC where the dam would be breached and the Jacksonburg Creek restored with several trout pools and wetlands areas, and improved with boardwalks and bridges. Under this scenario, the ponds on the property could still be used for fishing and boating. There would be other several financial supporters, but costs and feasibility are still being determined. Mr. Canace believes that the ponds are regulated by NRCS rather than by NJDEP, but this would need to be confirmed.

Mr. Detrick noted that the Board originally supported this project because the large 68 acre lake would alleviate visitation pressure at White Lake and its limited fishing access. Mr. Detrick asked whether this property would still serve that purpose if the dam were breached and the large lake restored to a creek. Mr. Canace responded that the trout pools, creek, and existing ponds would still serve that purpose. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to support RVC's proposed alternative for the Mohican Farm lake/dam and for them to continue researching information and report back to the Board. Motion carried.

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

### Morris Canal Committee

- Mr. Detrick said that all projects are continuing as planned.
- Only one electrician submitted a proposal for the work at Plane 9. Mr. Detrick will send Ms. Roy several other electrician contacts to seek additional proposals, because it would be ideal to get at least one or two more for comparison.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**HMUA/Barbieri Property** - The old water storage tank owned by the HMUA on the Barbieri property needs to be removed and a new one installed on a one-acre portion of the property set aside for exchange. The HMUA offered to transfer Block 4, Lot 30 (Independence Twp.), a 6-acre piece of property with road frontage and parking if the county would pay for removal of the old water tank.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Halimi to enter Executive Session at 6:08 pm to discuss the HMUA and Barbieri property. Motion carried.

Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to exit Executive Session at 6:23 pm. Motion carried.

Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo for Mr. Tierney to continue negotiations with the HMUA and recommended offering to purchase Block 4, Lot 30 in fee at fair market value, but does not recommend paying for removal of the old water tank. Motion carried.

### **Administrator's Report**


- Albulescu - Seller's attorney and county counsel are working on contract details.
- Cacciapaglia - Moving along, getting closer to closing.
- Singley - Survey and environmental ordered.

**Goats at Stine Farm** – After three years of problems, the two feral goats at the Stine Farm were finally captured by a non-profit group called “Goats of Anarchy”. Mr. Tierney thanked Michael Muckle from the New Jersey Youth Corps and Alayne Torretta from the Rutgers 4H program for overseeing the goats' removal.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk