

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**February 14, 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, Raymond Tobaygo, David Detrick, William Hann

**Members Absent:** Matthew Davis

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**MINUTES:** The January 10, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Ms. Roy distributed the preliminary information for the Park Fest event for the Board's review. Any suggestions are welcome.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**Morris Canal Committee**

- Canal Bus Tours have been scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Plane 9 & 10 - The meeting to discuss the next steps and the timeline of larger projects in the Master Plan will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The towpath from Bread Lock Park to the solar field has been cleared, aside from a section that will either need a bridge built or a drain installed and filled.
- Plane 6 - Work will continue when the weather clears up.
- Mr. Helbing suggested they do a bus tour of the inclined planes of Warren County.
- There is an issue of dog waste not being cleaned up on the Strykers Road trail. It was suggested that signage, dog waste bags, and a trash receptacle be installed at the site. Mr. Tierney will inquire what RVC installed at White Lake for the same issue.
- Phillipsburg Canal Trail - The ribbon cutting and canal boat replica unveiling took place on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the trail head on South Main Street in Phillipsburg. The event was well-attended.

**Trails**

- Mr. Helbing discussed the concerns he has regarding the Health Department 30-minute walks at White Lake. He said that they end without any directions to turn around or where to go next. The Health Department would like to do more of these 30-minute walks at other County Parks, so a protocol should be set prior to the addition of any other sites. It was determined that the trails need a beginning and ending marker, should only run concurrently with one preexisting trail, and more brochures are needed. Mr. Tierney will relay the Board's suggestions to the Health Department and invite them to the next meeting if they have any questions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Open Space Plan Update**

- Mr. Tierney asked the Board to review the plan update and forward any comments or suggestions. Mr. Detrick noted a correction to page 145 - Bread Lock Park is open the second Sunday of the month, not the first.
- Ms. Roy said that NJTPA will be issuing an RFP for a statewide study of the Greenway, so she will inquire about that at the next meeting.
- Mr. Hann noted that the Warren Highlands trail routes in Mr. Davis's description do not match the routes in the Plan Update. The Plan should be updated to include the trail revisions.
- The Board needs to revisit their plan for prioritizing acquisitions and improvements for the next three to five years.

## **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.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Acquisition Updates**

Tasevski - Applied for farmland preservation, but SADC was not interested in preserving due to groundwater contamination. Being reappraised, as Green Acres maybe more lenient than SADC.

Sigler - Similar situation as Tasevski. Mr. Tierney asked if the Board would like to proceed with simultaneous appraisals and environmental assessments for both Tasevski and Sigler properties. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to proceed with simultaneous appraisals and environmental assessments for both properties. Motion carried.

Verna Stull Estate - Landowner is interested in selling in fee. An existing survey doesn't clearly depict if the canal is in fact, part of the property. Mr. Tierney will ask the landowner to confirm the inclusion of the canal with the surveyor. Mr. Detrick noted that there are canal boat remains on Jim Stull's property - not included in, but near this property. Landowner could also preserve as farmland, but the Board recommends having a canal trail easement in place, prior to preserving.

Albulesco - Property has a great view of the Pohatcong Creek aqueduct and could lend itself as a nice site historic interpretation for a reasonable cost. Mr. Tierney asked if the Board is interested in pursuing. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to proceed with appraisals. Motion carried.

True - Landowner applied for Highlands Development Credits and was awarded \$928,000. The Green Acres appraisal value came back at \$770,000. Highlands Council grants are not expected to be awarded until March 2017. Highlands Council is asking the County to maintain their original offer of \$192,000 in County funds to be included in the closing. They would then loosen the Highlands easement language to allow for trail improvements on the property. Mr. Tierney inquired if the Board would like to proceed with the original offer of \$192,000. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to proceed with the original offer of \$192,000 towards the acquisition of the property. Motion carried.

Mohican Farm Association - Property is approximately 363 acres with several lakes and a dam. Both RVC and TNC are interested in partnering on this project, but are not interested in being the landowner. Mr. Tierney said if the Board is interested in pursuing acquisition, an engineering report could be done to determine the safety of the dam. It was suggested that Mr. Tierney inquire if the State is interesting in buying the property.

**PERMIT REQUESTS**

First United Methodist Church of Blairstown - Easter Sunrise Service on April 16, 2017 from 6:15 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The permit request was approved by the Board.

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

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Roberts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk