

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**March 10, 2020
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:12 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, Charles Fineran

Guests: Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The February 11, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee/Warren Heritage Scenic Byway

- Museum visitation has been steady at Bread Lock Park.
- Canal Bus Tours - A bus tour is scheduled on May 31st with a large group from the Society of Industrial Archaeology and they will be stopping at Bread Lock Park and Plane 9. There likely won't be another spring bus tour scheduled this year. The fall bus tour will be scheduled for October.
- The Jim & Mary Lee Museum will open on the 3rd Sunday in April, as the 2nd Sunday is Easter. A revised schedule will also be followed in May, as the 2nd Sunday is Mother's Day.
- Mr. Helbing will be doing another presentation in August to the Museum of Industrial History and will be focusing on the entire anthracite industry.

Trails

- Marble Hill - Mr. Helbing was scouting a reroute of a road walk section of the Warren Highlands Trail on piece of State property above North Main Street and found chimney remains of some former roads and a former event hall for Ingersoll-Rand. There will only be one road crossing.
- Issues on State Park Property - Mr. Helbing reported that someone has been shooting trail posts on State Park property; the blaze that was shot at was facing the road. Mr. Helbing has also had issues with people riding ATVs and causing damage.
- Van-Nest Hoff-Vannatta - Mr. Helbing started cutting through along the field edge, down to the pond. Mr. Helbing suggested the Harmony Historical Society apply for a trail grant to install a story walk with interpretive signs at each building.
- Ragged Ridge - New gravel parking areas will be installed on Ridge Road and another on Fox Farm Road. Mr. Kabert, Superintendent from State Parks inquired if the proposed warehouse in Hope Township would be in the view shed of the Warren Highlands Trail from Ragged Ridge; it was, so Mr. Helbing forwarded a picture from Ragged Ridge to Mr. Kabert.
- Phillipsburg Mall Pedestrian Crossing - A warehouse will likely be going in at the Phillipsburg Mall site, but Kohls will remain as retail.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Gravel for Scenic Byway Kiosk Pull-off in Asbury** - The vacant property along the Scenic Byway owned by Bill Levins would be an ideal location for the kiosk. Mr. Levins has given permission for

the installation of the kiosk and gravel pull-off. The kiosk and panel have already been paid for by the Economic Development Committee, but the cost of the gravel would need to be covered, which is estimated to be under \$1,000. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the purchase of gravel for the Scenic Byway kiosk pull-off. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator's Report

Acquisitions

- Albulescu - Updated appraisal was received. Mr. Tierney needs to review the appraisal and speak with land owners.
- Singley - An anomalous area will need to be test-pitted, but that is the last area of concern.
- Primrose Road Property - Mr. Tierney was contacted by a realtor regarding a property for sale on Primrose Road in Hardwick Township, close to Cacciapaglia/White Lake, with Paulinskill River frontage (maps were distributed). There is no current connectivity, unless the Cacciapaglia property that was excepted out due to environmental issues is cleaned up and purchased. The property, consisting of two lots (Block 1202, Lots 3.10 and 3.11) is listed for \$279,800, but will likely appraise for less. Both lots are currently vacant and being farmed. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi for Mr. Tierney to pursue acquisition of the property and proceed with appraisals. Motion carried.

Maintenance

- Marble Hill - The Department of Labor, Mine Safety Division issued the County violations for eight GPS points/cuts in the hillside of Marble Hill. There is currently lawsuit between DOL and State Parks, as the citations issued to State Parks would require millions of dollars of fencing to be installed. The DOL recommended Mr. Tierney to install signage now, in hopes that the State Parks settlement will be completed and the violation requirements won't be as burdensome by then.

Farmland Preservation Applications w/Easement - Mr. Detrick inquired about the farmland preservation properties with easements listed on the Administrator's Report and if the canal was exempted out. Mr. Tierney said the applications are under engineering and title review.

White Lake Management - Mr. Detrick inquired if there was any follow-up response from Freeholder Gardner regarding the White Lake management conversation the Board had with him at the last meeting. He also requested the Youth Corps provide updates on White Lake to the Board for review. Mr. Detrick suggested the White Lake management situation be reevaluated in the fall and the Board make a recommendation to rehire Ridge & Valley Conservancy, prior to the end of Freeholder Gardner's term. Mr. Detrick will bring this up again at the next meeting for discussion.

TAP Grant for Trail Improvements - The contract for a trail engineering study was awarded to a firm at the last Freeholder meeting. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk