

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**March 12, 2019  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Helbing 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, Michael Helbing, William Hann, Raymond Tobaygo, Matthew Davis, Charles Fineran

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy, Cole Baldino

**MINUTES:** The February 5, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Davis and Mr. Helbing abstaining. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cole Baldino from Trout Unlimited attended the meeting to discuss the Lopatcong Creek Habitat, Floodplain, and Riparian Restoration Project. The project will restore 1.5 miles of habitat, increase recreational opportunity, non-game restoration for wood turtles, in-stream habitat enhancement, connectivity between sites and stream crossings, community engagement, and bridge protection. Trout Unlimited would also assist with maintenance. Mr. Baldino requested the Board's assistance with financial support of the project, but did not have a total project cost for the Board. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to endorse the project initiative and continue discussions with Trout Unlimited and requests that Mr. Baldino return with a draft proposal that includes specific project costs for review, prior to determining the amount of financial support to be provided. Motion carried. Mr. Davis suggested Mr. Baldino do the same for the Morris Canal Committee.

Mr. Detrick also suggested sending Mr. Baldino the Parks Foundation kiosk order form.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Morris Canal Committee

- Motorized Recreational Vehicles - Mr. Oostdyk called Mr. Detrick while he was out of town to let him know that a group of people showed up at Bread Lock Park with a trailer full of snowmobiles after the last snow storm. Mr. Helbing noted that ATVs have been an issue at Plane 9. Signs with general park rules can be posted, as well as signage stating that motorized recreational vehicles are not permitted. A chain and PVC pipe with reflective tape can be installed. It is encouraged that violators be reported to the police.
- Mowing at Bread Lock Park - A field visit may be scheduled to determine what grassy areas at Bread Lock Park to have the Youth Corps mow and what to let grow into meadows. The intention is to lessen the workload on the Youth Corps. Since ParkFest is in June, it was suggested to mow up to that point and let it grow after the event. An employee from OK4WD offered to cut and bale as needed; Mr. Detrick will speak with him regarding the ideal height for the grass cutting/baling.

- Marble Hill/Downed Trees - Mr. Hann noted that the Marble Hill red trail in Lopatcong has a lot of downed trees. Mr. Helbing noted that there are also downed trees on the yellow trail. If those are cleared by the Youth Corps, he and another volunteer could help with trail maintenance. A volunteer work day at Marble Hill is being planned with the Phillipsburg Rotary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May.

Mr. Helbing noted that Mr. Trontis is organizing a chainsaw use and trail building training with Peter Dolan from NY/NJ Trail Conference for Union County. He could possibly organize something like that for Warren County.

The County does not have coverage for bodily injury; only property damage. The Parks Foundation is looking into a policy for coverage.

- Story Walk - The Story Walk project at Bread Lock Park was started this past weekend. The trail will have its grand opening at ParkFest.
- Bread Lock Park Trail - Mr. Helbing said that the new section of trail at Bread Lock Park looks excellent. Mr. Detrick said that the Geocaching group did a lot of clean-up at their Cache-In/Trash-Out event. Since then, OK4WD employees have been helping to keep the trail clean.
- Bilby Road Bridge - Ms. Roy said she may be ordering the bridge soon, even if it has to be stored for some time. She would like to close out the grant since it has been open for quite a while.
- Electrical Work at Plane 9 - Ms. Roy contacted several other electricians to seek proposals, but has not yet received any responses. Ms. Roy has one more contact to try and will get a materials list from the electrical engineer and check back with everyone one more time. If she still doesn't get any interest, she will start back at the beginning and try to find out why no one is submitting proposals.
- Inclined Plane Animated Film - Jim Lee, Jr. has been working with a gentleman from Halifax, Nova Scotia on the Morris Canal film project, which is coming along nicely and should be ready for viewing at ParkFest.

## Trails

- Geiger Tract - Mr. Helbing wants to mark the Warren Highlands section at Geiger like the new trail at Bread Lock Park. Mr. Detrick asked Mr. Helbing to let him know how many of the trail markers he needs and they can be done as a workshop project. Keeping the Geiger section mowed and maintained is also a challenge - possibly see if a Parks Foundation member would be willing to maintain it. The bridge over the Lopatcong Creek should also be repaired. Mr. Helbing also suggested notifying the farmer about the perimeter trail and request he leaves space during planting.
- There was discussion regarding signage and crosswalks for trails with road crossings. Mr. Tierney said crosswalks are done through the Engineer's Office and locations would need to be prioritized.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Administrator's Report**

- Barbieri/HMUA - Conference call with the HMUA and the attorney on Thursday regarding the counteroffer.
- Mohican Farm Associates - Mr. Canace submitted a revised proposal after speaking with the landowner. RVC would acquire the entire southern piece which includes the large lake and dam; RVC would then assume all liability. RVC may submit a proposal for the acquisition to the MCCT. The county would acquire the remaining lots. Princeton Hydro submitted a proposal in the amount of \$5,900 to inspect and assess the property, dam, and determine liabilities of the bodies


of water on the property. A tour of the site will be arranged for any interested Board members. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to proceed with the Princeton Hydro analysis. Motion carried.

- Albulescu - The landowner verbally accepted offer, but a signed contract has not been returned. The seller's attorney has concerns about indemnifying the County if there are any contamination issues. They also asked the County to use an non-LSRP, which has certain reporting requirements to DEP. Mr. Detrick suggested using a metal detector to determine if there are any buried tanks and possibly testing the water for leeching of contaminants. Mr. Helbing noted that the first floor of the old mill collapsed and who knows what could have been buried. It is also possible that if the environmental study finds serious concerns that need remediation, the cost could be deducted from the purchase price. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to proceed with the standard Green Acres PAR. Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk