

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**March 13, 2018  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** John Halmi, David Detrick, Charles Fineran, Matthew Davis, Michael Helbing

**Members Absent:** Raymond Tobaygo, William Hann

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**MINUTES:** The February 13, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Morris Canal Committee

- Plane 9 turbine safety issues being updated and addressed.
- Kiosks being built.
- Planning underway for ParkFest.
- Floor boards in barn needing replacement will be finished prior to ParkFest.
- Soil borings completed at Bilby Road for bridge. The project is moving along.
- Randy Piazza, former Phillipsburg Town Council member, joined the Morris Canal Committee.
- Planning Plane 9 to Delaware River for fall bus tour/hike. Working out details.
- Same route being planned by the Phillipsburg Mayor with Metrotrails as a night hike on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Trails

- The past storm did more damage to trees on the trails than Hurricane Sandy.
- Red Trail to Lopatcong Park has a lot of trees down, but will be cleared as previously marked.
- Phillipsburg High School has mowed their own access path to Marble Hill. Students have been using the trail to walk home from school. An invitation to attend the next Warren Highlands Trail Meeting will be sent to the Phillipsburg High School principal.
- Youth Corps may have time before mowing season starts to clear the fallen trees on the Marble Hill trails and clean up the garbage on River Road.
- More posts can be ordered for Geiger tract when they are ready to be installed. Farmers will be notified and a meeting possibly set up to discuss the trail and help prevent trail posts from being run over. Mr. Tierney would like NRCS to develop a conservation plan for trails on farmland so it can be incorporated in farm leases. Mr. Helbing suggested small boardwalk type bridges be installed over seasonally wet areas on farmland trails.
- Oxford to Washington - Trails to be scouted soon. May be old mining roads that can be used.
- April 4<sup>th</sup> - Mr. Helbing will be giving Warren Highlands Trail presentation to Sierra Club in Hunterdon County. Volunteer forms will be available prior to the meeting.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- 2018 annual calendar/list of events was distributed with the agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Delaware Water Gap Rock Fall Berm - A 60' high fence is proposed to be installed to prevent rock fall onto Route 80. Mr. Fineran worked for State Police in this area and never heard of any rock fall issues. Mr. Davis looked into rock fall incidents on Route 80 and there have not been many, if any accidents related to rock fall and this would be an unnecessary, unsightly, and costly project. Public review period has already passed.

Fence would make rescue efforts, especially to climbers, much more difficult. Traffic is planned to be rerouted from Route 80 to Route 611, which cannot handle that volume/weight.

John Donahue, who recently retired as Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area had said that this rock fall berm is a "solution in search for a problem".

Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis for the Board to recommend to the Warren County Freeholders that they oppose the installation of the rock fall berm. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Administrator's Report**

- The Administrator's Report was reorganized to show project status. Project area may also be included in future reports.
- Benbrook - Scheduled to close March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Albulescu - RFP for survey should be issued soon.

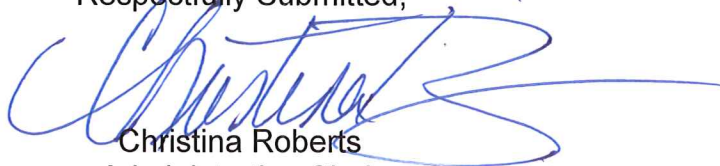
### **Maintenance**

Countryside Apartments – The Mount Rascal property off Old Allamuchy Road has a survey gore with the apartment complex and the surveyor didn't map a catch basin. The stream goes under the culvert into a concrete spillway, which dumps into a catch basin that is then piped beneath the apartment complex and out to Route 517. The catch basin is collapsing is in need of extensive repairs, so the Hackettstown Zoning Officer contacted the county. However, the property boundary line goes appears to bisect the catch basin so it is not yet clear who is responsible to maintain and repair the structure. In researching previous plans and historical records, it appears that the apartment complex or their predecessors in title authorized construction of it. Mr. Tierney will consult with the County Engineer and County Counsel about how to resolve the issue.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2018.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk