

Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2014

Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, New Jersey 07863

Members Present: Michael Helbing Raymond Tobaygo
 William Hann John Halmi
 Charles Fineran Matthew Davis

Members Absent: David Detrick

Staff: Corey Tierney and Sue Beall

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Secretary Davis because Mr. Helbing had been delayed. This meeting was held at the office of the Department of Land Preservation, 500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford, New Jersey.

The Introductory Statement and roll call were read into the record. Secretary Davis then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2014, were approved on a motion by Mr. Hann second by Mr. Tobaygo. Motion carried. Mr. Fineran and Mr. Davis abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None this evening.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

◆ Morris Canal Committee – In Mr. Detrick’s absence Mr. Tierney reported that he and some of the members of the Canal Committee attended a Morris Canal Conference sponsored by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. In addition to Warren County, Morris, Essex and Jersey City were represented as well as many of the stake holders along the Greenway. There was a very good turnout and lots of interest. Warren County was recognized for their early efforts in beginning the preservation as well as the accomplishments.

Since Mr. Helbing had not yet arrived, the next topic was PUBLIC AWARENESS.

PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Mr. Tierney brought the Commissioners up-to-date on the activities and events planned for Warren County Preservation Day and presented the new brochures. There is now a new White Lake brochure with an updated map. A brochure for Florence Kuipers Memorial Park, which is a draft, because the map has not yet been completed. A brochure on the Pequest Fish Hatchery and the Rockport Pheasant Farm because of the partnership between themselves and the County.

Mr. Helbing arrived and the meeting moved on to Trails.

◆ Trails – Mr. Helbing stated that the rest of the yellow trail at Marble Hill has been repaired and the Youth Corps. has cleared the entire red trail. He met with Mim Dunne of Fish and Wildlife to talk about the proposed trail on State land along the old railroad bed. Ms. Dunne says that the State is on board. A lengthy discussion of various problem areas and stop gaps ensued. Mr. Tierney is setting up a meeting with the representative from the Farmers' Fair Association to discuss trails on the Geiger property. A further discussion was held on the various new brochures and possible trails to bring Mr. Helbing up to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

◆ Acquisition and Status of Projects – Mann is under contract and is being surveyed. There still has been no response to the second offer on Wolf. Appraisals are due back on the O'Dowd property and will be on the Freeholder agenda for the end of the month. On the property between Bread Lock Park and O'Dowd the property formerly known as North Central Realty that was planning on solar fields – the solar plan has fallen through. Mr. Tierney would like the Board's support in contacting the owner to learn what they have to say. Mr. Hann made a motion, second by Mr. Fineran, to direct Mr. Tierney to contact North Central Realty and obtain appraisals on Block 15, Lots 2 and 2.01. Motion carried. Route 57 Partners – we are waiting for the owner to return from India to close. Once that is closed, contact will again be made with Janeco. We are still trying to schedule a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Crouse. Mr. Tierney called and left a message for Mr. Handlos today. There is nothing new on Read. Mr. Tierney spoke with Mr. Pool's son-in-law and they are still interested in selling the Port Murray property. Independence Land Holdings will be discussed in Executive Session. A PSA conducted on the Jonestown property is due next week. An RFP for appraisals on Terhune has been sent out. Mr. Tierney met with the owners of the property on the southern end of White Lake to discuss an easement for continuing a trail around that part of the lake. They are amenable to discussion of a possible easement. Mr. Tobaygo made a motion to authorize Mr. Tierney to proceed with appraisals on that property. Second was by Mr. Davis. Motion carried.

Maintenance – A survey at Bilby Road was authorized today for the area proposed for the bridge. Youth Corps. will be meeting with Mr. Tierney for their annual spring mowing contract. Mrs. Roy is working on plans for the parking area at Stryker's Road. Mr. Tierney is also working on a brochure for Plane 9 West. He has spoken with Pat Smith (the farmer currently working the former Hamlen land) and he agreed to have the County keep trails open around those fields.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Warren County Preservation Day was previously discussed.

A proclamation for National Public Health Week has been prepared in conjunction with the WC Health Department and is on the BCF agenda for tomorrow night. The emphasis is on promoting good health through sound decisions: such as wearing sun screen, getting proper exercise and good health in general. Mr. Hann made a motion in favor of the proclamation, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo. Motion carried.

There will also be an Ecotourism Event promoting cancer awareness involving the Health Department, NORWESCAP and others. Gifts promoting health consciousness will be distributed by the various participants.

Mr. Tobaygo made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property negotiations and contractual matters, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Motion carried unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 5:55 p.m, no action will be taken.

Mr. Hann made a motion, second by Mr. Fineran, to come out of Executive Session. Board returned at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Hann then made a motion to counter the offer to Independence Land Holdings in the amount of \$1.75 million. Motion seconded by Mr. Fineran and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nothing this evening

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fineran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Davis. Chairman Helbing adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan W. Beall