

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**April 9, 2019  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:10 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, Charles Fineran

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy

**MINUTES:** The March 12, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

4-H Trail Program - Ms. Roy recently found out that the 4-H has a trail program and inquired if the Board would like the 4-H Coordinator to attend a future meeting to discuss a possible project or an "adopt-a-trail" program for the kids. Several ideas were discussed, but the Board decided it would be ideal for the coordinator to attend a meeting to determine what project(s) would best fit their needs.

**Marble Hill**

Outdoor Classroom - Mr. Helbing proposed the idea of an outdoor classroom on the Marble Hill property, behind the new high school that could be used by both the school and the community. Mr. Detrick noted that could be a good Eagle Scout project.

Downed Trees - Retired Judge Kingfield spoke with Mr. Hann regarding the trail near Lopatcong Park and he is interested in helping Mr. Hann keep it maintained once the downed trees have been cleared.

Mr. Tierney contacted Mr. Muckle regarding the downed trees at Marble Hill and requested they be cut prior to the May 11<sup>th</sup> Phillipsburg Rotary volunteer work day. Volunteers can then remove the wood and debris from the trails during the cleanup.

Mr. Detrick and Mr. Helbing will meet at Marble Hill to determine the areas/trails that need the most work. A bridge may also need to be installed in an area with severe erosion.

30-Minute Walk/Health Department Trail - A meeting should be scheduled at Marble Hill with Land Preservation, the Health Department, a few BORC members, the high school, and possibly the 4-H coordinator (whose 4-H group may be able to help maintain the trail).

Mohican Farm Property - Several Board members toured the property with Bob Canace. Mr. Hann and Mr. Fineran commented on the property features and what an asset it would be to the County. Some of the projected expenses to manage the property were also discussed. In order to receive William Penn Foundation funding towards the portion of the property the County is acquiring, a section of the stream would need to be retained by the County.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### Morris Canal Committee

- Bread Lock Park Trail - OK4WD employees will continue maintaining the trail from Bread Lock Park to the solar field. A sign recognizing their work on the trail may be installed this summer.
- Snowmobiles - Mr. Oostdyk spoke with the people who brought the trailer of snowmobiles to Bread Lock Park and explained that motorized vehicles were not permitted in the park.
- Foodshed Alliance - Started work on cleaning up and preparing the planting area for this year.
- Maintenance/Work Day - A special volunteer work day or two will be scheduled for some painting and maintenance around the park.
- Story Walk - All 13 pedestals have been installed on the trail, along with a new kiosk by the house. Mr. Detrick presented the draft kiosk printout for the Story Walk. The trail will have its grand opening at ParkFest.
- Inclined Plane Animated Film - The animation of the canal is coming along and will also be presented at ParkFest.
- Electrical Work at Plane 9 - Electrical issues being resolved.
- Bilby Road Bridge - Mr. Dech will coordinate with the Bridge Dept. to schedule the bridge installation, but the plan will likely need to be redesigned. The bridge manufacturer specifications require the concrete pillars be installed twelve feet deep on both sides, which is not possible due to the location; other options are being considered.
- Port Colden - Developing a good relationship with the neighbors; they may even take over some of the mowing. The lot lines should be determined, some trees need to be cleared to help widen the lane, and quarry process gravel should be ordered to fill in potholes.
- Cherry Tree Bend - A 25' walking platform was installed on Cherry Tree Bend over the marshy area. Neighbor, Stan Cohen has been keeping the grassy area mowed at the site.

### Trails

- Warren Highlands Trail - A WHT meeting is being scheduled, but no date has been set yet.
- New Volunteer - A new potential Parks Foundation member, Jason Branham attended the Board of Trustees meeting and is looking for volunteer projects at Oxford Mountain and nearby areas.
- Oxford Mountain - A tree fell on and damaged the fence surrounding one of the mine shafts. The Department of Labor (DOL), Division of Mine Safety visited Oxford Mountain, amongst many other properties throughout the state, to inspect the mine shafts. The County was required to repair the fence, which it since has been. Signage still needs to be installed. Mine shafts on municipal properties will be targeted next by the DOL. Once those have been addressed, trails on Oxford Mountain can start being cleared and opened up to the public.
- Florence Kuipers - A revised scope of work was submitted. The TPA grant should help improve accessibility and make the site more ADA compliant. A virtual tour would also aid in accessibility.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Administrator's Report**

- Albulescu - The landowner agreed to abide by County standards; moving forward with PAR. Access agreement being prepared by attorney.
- Barbieri/HMUA - Survey, environmental, and title all underway.
- Singley - PAR was completed. Areas of concern were identified; ground penetrating radar needs to be used in certain areas.
- Cacciapaglia - Landowners are still in the process of cleaning up areas of concern; should be able to schedule closing soon.

White Lake Dock - The new dock was installed last week and is already being well-used. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled for some time in May with the Freeholders, Hardwick Township officials, Ridge & Valley Conservancy, and the BORC.

Shippen Manor - NJ Youth Corps will be adding Shippen Manor to their mowing schedule this year. Some of the steeper slopes will be seeded with a wildflower mix and only cut back as needed. The new curator begins in mid-May.

Mr. Detrick suggested an interpretive kiosk be installed at the Oxford Furnace and Shippen Manor to explain the historical significance to anyone visiting the site. After the new curator begins, the content for the kiosks and coordination of installation can be determined.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk