

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**April 10, 2018
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:11 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, William Hann

Members Absent: Raymond Tobaygo

Guests: Bob Canace, Joel McGreen, Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The March 13, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Hann abstaining. Motion carried.

The February 13, 2018 Executive Session minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Hann abstaining. Motion carried.

MOHICAN FARM ASSOCIATES/YOUNG FAMILY TRUST PROPERTY

- Mr. Canace and Mr. McGreen from Ridge and Valley Conservancy (RVC) attended the meeting to discuss the 366-acre property that contains a well-stocked 66-acre lake and several ponds and a house, which is in very good condition with a large garage that covers almost the entire first floor. Handouts were provided to the Board to show the proposed lot line adjustment and conditions.
- The family would retain the 133-acre lot that has the portion of the lake with the dam on it and make the required repairs. An easement would be placed on the lot retained by the family, but RVC and the County would still have full access to the lake. After repairs are made and the dam passes inspection, the family may be interested in selling or donating the lot to the County and/or RVC. Family pays approx. \$2,200 biyearly for the dam inspection. Dam can also be drained and turned into a stream if the risk ever became too great. The family would leave the existing maintenance equipment and boats for use, pond would be named Young's Pond, and the family would make a stewardship donation to RVC.
- Once the family agrees to the lot line adjustment, RVC will have their initial appraisal revised to reflect the change and obtain a second appraisal. There are several investors that are interested in partnering on the acquisition (Ridge & Valley Conservancy/Green Acres, Blirstown Open Space, William Penn Foundation, The Nature Conservancy).
- Stewardship would be provided by RVC and incorporated to the existing agreement for White Lake. RVC currently receives \$65,000 to manage White Lake, but expects they could also manage Young's Pond for an additional \$35,000.
- Acquiring the property would lessen the burden on White Lake. Fly fishing, lake fishing, and pond fishing would be available. Several open fields would be great for multi-use. The land steward would stay in the house to keep an eye on the property. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to pursue involvement with RVC for potential acquisition and the maintenance of the Mohican Farm Associates/Young Family Trust Property. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Volunteer Work Day at Port Colden this Saturday.
- May 12th - Scheduled work day at Mount Rascal. More information to follow.
- May 12th - Canal bus tour.
- June 9th - ParkFest; seeking volunteers for the day.
- Work continues on the turbine chamber at Plane 9.

Trails

- Trail grand opening at ParkFest for trail that goes from O'Dowd to Bread Lock Park. Will be marked by volunteers from OK4WD prior to the event. Mr. Krause from Planning will remap the trail to update the kiosk and brochures.
- Trails are clear from Waterloo to Hackettstown.
- Some small trees down at Florence Kuipers.
- Parks Foundation purchased trail maintenance equipment for use in the Hackettstown area. Eventually it would be ideal to have equipment purchased and stored for use in other regions.
- Mr. Helbing will begin working on reestablishing the Geiger tract soon.
- Mr. Tierney and James Watling from RVC will be marking property corners at Oxford Mountain.
- Marble Hill - Lots of downed trees on yellow and red trails. Mr. Tierney will have NJ Youth Corps check out the trails and clear any trees on the path. Kiosk location also needs to be determined. It is reported that a homeless person is living in the old Fulmer Mine, so use caution when visiting that area.

NEW BUSINESS

- Scenic Byway Committee Representative - Next meeting will be held May 22nd at Franklin Township Municipal Building. Mr. Helbing volunteered since several other Board members are representing other Committees. Mr. Davis motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to appoint Mr. Helbing as the BORC representative on the Committee. Motion carried.
- Stull/Noel - CMVs came back for both properties. Stull - \$17,200 for 1.5 acres containing a portion of the canal. Noel - \$449,175 for 45.5 acres with farmland adjacent to Stull, but not containing the canal. Mr. Detrick noted that there are canal boat remains on this site. Mrs. Stull is amenable to selling, but Mr. Stull has some reservations. Ideally would like to have trail and public access easement on Stull and then put Noel property in Farmland Preservation, but being in the Pohatcong Valley Groundwater contamination area, SADC funding has been a challenge. Third party funding is being looked into. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to wait and see if third party or SADC funding can be obtained to assist with the farm preservation. Motion carried.
- Barbieri - CMV came back, offer letter was sent to landowner for \$93,000 for 32 acres.
- Singley - CMV came back and offer letter was sent. Landowner is agreeable to sell. Adjoins the Fancy property.
- Stowaway Self-Storage - Board discussed landowner's counter offer of \$13,000 to cover their legal expenses. Mr. Davis motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the acquisition of the trail and public access easement on 2 acres of property near Lopatcong Creek. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator's Report

- Benbrook - Closed in early April. The property adds 25 acres to White Lake Natural Resource Area and a half mile river frontage on the Paulins Kill. A press release will be issued soon.

- Carfaro - The State is in the process of acquiring the property, but it has several existing easements that they would like released. A conservation easement held through the County and slope and drainage easements held through the municipality. It is unknown what Board or Committee placed the conservation easement on the property. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to recommend the conservation easement held by the County be released. Motion carried.
- Memorial Tree and Park Benches - The Parks Foundation is seeking locations to place the fundraiser memorial trees and benches. Any suggestions can be forwarded to Mr. Tierney. Mr. Helbing said the open area near the trolley culvert at Port Murray would be a nice location.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk