

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**April 11, 2017
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:07 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Guests: Lynn Van Assen, Courtney Gabriel

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The March 21, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead - Lynn Van Assen from the Historic Preservation Commission of Harmony Township came to the Board to discuss long-term plans for the Farmstead. Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead is on NJ State Park land and the Historic Preservation Commission was given a long-term lease. Ms. Van Assen is concerned about what the State will do with the property when the lease expires. The Historic Preservation Commission would like the County to take over ownership of the property, either via purchase or a land swap with the State, and the Historic Preservation Commission would continue to be financially responsible for the care and maintenance of the Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead. The lease expiration is not imminent, so no decisions need to be made now, but Ms. Van Assen asked that the county consider the idea. Mr. Hahn explained that the Freeholders have been reluctant to purchase additional structures due to ongoing maintenance costs. Mr. Helbing noted that the farmstead is also near land owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) and that perhaps they would be interested. Mr. Tierney will put Ms. Van Assen in contact with Ingrid Vandegaer from NJCF.

White Lake - Courtney Gabriel from RVC attended the meeting. A few complaints have been received regarding the gate not being open by sunrise or that it is being closed before sunset. Mr. Tierney stated that he spoke with Mr. Canace and he was assured the gate will be opened and closed on time.

Residents have also expressed interest in shoreline fishing. Mr. Canace forwarded a handout with several proposed areas where shoreline fishing may be permissible if the Board wanted to reconsider allowing it (it is currently prohibited). Mr. Tierney read pertinent portions of the White Lake Natural Resource Plan Inventory and Management Plan for the Board which emphasize the uniqueness, sensitivity, and importance of the shoreline plants. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to continue disallowing shoreline fishing.

Ms. Gabriel also stated that she had someone disobey park rules and go swimming in White Lake, even after telling them not to. She took the person's license plate number. Mr. Tierney stated that she and the other preserve managers can contact the state police about visitor misbehavior if necessary. RVC requested something in writing to display that they have authority to enforce park rules. The

Department will order business cards for RVC staff that indicate their authority. In addition, the Department will order a sign that says "Managed by the Ridge and Valley Conservancy" to hang beneath the main sign.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- A meeting was held on March 28th to discuss the next steps with both Plane 9 and 10 in the Master Plan. It was determined that an appropriate firm be hired to assist in project management.
- Plane 6 Clean-up Day - Saturday, April 22nd. Meeting at Port Colden Mall and car-pool to the site. Information will be sent out via email.

Trails

- Mr. Helbing noted that the volunteer (David Mashburn) keeping Marble Hill clear is doing a great job.
- Mr. Tierney left a voicemail for Mr. Chando, Phillipsburg Superintendent of Schools, to discuss the connection of the Marble Hill trail behind the new high school.
- Warren Highlands Trail - In Allamuchy, part of the trail will piggyback the Allamuchy Pond Trail, which has a nice ADA accessible section.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates:

- Logothetis - Mr. Tierney spoke with Mr. Logothetis; other siblings were involved in the negotiations. He rejected our offer, saying he had a much higher offer elsewhere.
- Pool - Mr. Tierney sent the realtor a copy of our contract and they sent our attorney a copy of their contract, which had unacceptable terms. Our attorney is trying to negotiate terms.
- Ferrara - Mr. Tierney was able to obtain a contact for Norfolk Southern Railroad, so he will try to reach out to them to inquire about trail access under the train bridge. He also explained the current status to Mr. Ferrara.
- Hills of Independence - Closing should take place by the end of April.
- Terhune - Should close in a month or two.
- True - Only one reappraisal has been received so far.
- Caporin - Made an offer, but appraisals came back low.
- Cacciapaglia - Landowner made a verbal agreement on the offer, but now seems to be rethinking.

Chiu Property - Mr. Helbing noted that the Chiu property, which is adjacent to the County-owned Castner property on the north side of the Morris Canal, is for sale. Mr. Tierney will look into the Chiu property to see if the Board may be interested in acquiring it.

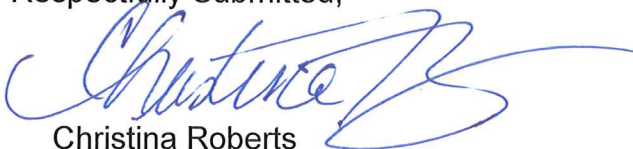
Maintenance:

- Ridge & Valley Conservancy would like the Board to purchase a tractor for the maintenance of the meadows at White Lake. The tractor would cost approximately \$20,000. The other options are to either rent farm equipment or hire a farmer to cut the meadows, as needed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to suggest RVC either rent farm equipment or hire a farmer to cut the meadows, as needed. Motion carried.
- Marble Hill/River Road Kiosk - This is the kiosk that was damaged, probably by a car accident. It was suggested that the Youth Corps spray the area prone to overgrowth of weeds prior to reinstallation of the kiosk. Mr. Tierney will inquire with the Youth Corps.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Roberts', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk