

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**April 14, 2015
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: William Hann, Jr.

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, Andrew Ward

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Cortis

MINUTES: The March 10, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the visitor survey from the Delaware Water Gap National Park Service (NPS). Mr. Tierney met with the NPS to discuss coordination and trail connections, as the county updates the Open Space Plan. Mr. Helbing inquired if Mr. Tierney mentioned the Ridge & Valley connection. Mr. Tierney responded that he did and the NPS was not opposed to the idea, provided the trail connects to existing trails.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

The Morris Canal Bus Trip is scheduled for May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Detrick suggested that Ms. Cortis attend one of these tours sometime.

Proposals for the turbine chamber at Plane 9 are due back on May 1st.

A Spring Maintenance Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on April 24th to discuss what maintenance needs to be done at the various county sites. The Port Murray Park will be added to the list of sites to look at during the meeting, due to the overgrowth of multiflora rose; spraying or cutting back may be necessary.

Mr. Davis will be coordinating some hiking trips.

Mr. Davis will be working on a model of the Warren Railroad, along with several other people to be displayed in the basement of the Bread Lock Park museum.

The April 14th Morris Canal Committee meeting has been canceled.

Trails

Mr. Helbing spoke with Harker's Hollow regarding the encroachment area and the dumping of mulch. They will be working with him to start clearing and marking the trail.

Mr. Helbing will speak to Mr. Shandor to establish the trail through the property. Mr. Tierney sent Mr. Shandor the letter that he had requested.

Mr. Helbing would like to meet with each municipality that the Highlands Trail runs through. Mr. Tierney suggested that Mr. Helbing identify which towns he wants to meet with and the topics of discussion and send them to Mr. Tierney. He will then reach out to the town on Mr. Helbing's behalf and see if they are interested in meeting.

Mr. Helbing suggested that a good Eagle Scout project could be to work on signage on trails.

Mr. Detrick said the stairway they are working on for the Brickyard will be done soon.

Public Awareness

Trails Day, June 6th - Mr. Davis inquired about having a small hike at Florence Kuipers to Buck Hill and back. Mr. Davis will send his formal trail plan to Mr. Tierney for approval.

Preservation Day - A meeting to finalize details for Preservation Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at Rutherford Hall. Mr. Fineran said that there is a possibility that the Rutherfurds may be attending Preservation Day.

Mr. Fineran also noted that he is trying to contact the writer from the Star-Ledger that wrote an article on the history of Rutherford Hall ten years ago to see if he is interested in doing a follow-up article on Rutherford Hall for Preservation Day.

WRNJ - Mr. Helbing and Mr. Davis did a brief radio interview on March 26th and discussed various trail projects they are working on.

NEW BUSINESS

Acquisition Updates

O'Dowd - Mr. Tierney has a meeting with the landowners and their attorney on Thursday morning.

White/Woo Property - A meeting is scheduled with the landowners and Wild Ridge Plants on April 30th to discuss the vegetative buffer plan.

Handlos - Lot 71 will not be acquired. Per acre adjustments will be made to the final price. The revised and final survey has been received. Updated title work has been ordered. Closing will hopefully be the end of April.

Carfaro - The Department will prepare the Green Acres application on behalf of Ms. Carfaro and send it to her for signature. The application will then be forwarded to Green Acres as a formality.

The Hills at Independence - The Homeowner's Association reviewed the Department's proposal for a trail easement and trail connection. Maps to illustrate the easement and connection were distributed. Mr. Helbing noted that there are several sections of the canal that were marked as "destroyed" on the maps, but are still intact and were erroneously marked. Mr. Tierney requested the Board's approval to

have the easement appraised to make an offer. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to have the easement appraised and make an offer to acquire the easement. Motion carried.

M&M Mars - Mr. Davis will forward his contact information for M&M Mars to Mr. Tierney to reach out to the company to set up a meeting. Mr. Roy noted that the company submitted an application to the Planning Board, so Mr. Tierney should review the application prior to meeting with them.

Mr. Helbing stated that Tune Ott, a member of MetroTrails group, has adopted a section of the Morris Canal from Saxon Falls to the Causeway section and is now maintained and clear. Mr. Helbing would like to get him involved in the Bilby Road section.

Terhune Property Acquisition - Mr. Tierney sent the contract to the landowner for review.

WORKING GROUPS

Park Rules - Mr. Davis and Mr. Helbing will review the Park Rules and Bylaws and any changes proposed by Board members. They will then submit a summarized draft of the changes and forward them to Mr. Tierney and the full Board for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Metal Detecting at Marble Hill - A person is requesting to use a metal detector on county parkland; this has been allowed previously as he volunteered to remove trash at old dumping sites. Mr. Tierney suggested the Board issue a Special Use Permit on a site-specific case-by-case basis, with the Morris Canal being a restricted area. The Permittee must list what was found and any objects of significant historical or monetary value should be brought to the attention of the Department and given the right of first refusal. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to permit metal detecting under the above-mentioned conditions. Motion carried.


June 13th Picnic - Debbie Hicks inquired about holding a 50th birthday party for her husband at Bread Lock Park on Saturday, June 13th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They would be bringing hoagies and covered dishes, so no grills would be used, and they would carry out their garbage. She said there would be approximately 30 people. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the picnic at Bread Lock Park. Motion carried. A Special use Permit will be issued to Ms. Hicks, pending Mr. Tierney's approval of her application.

It was suggested a Port-a John be installed at Bread Lock Park; the park has been getting enough use to warrant the necessity for it. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to have a Port-a John be ordered and installed at Bread Lock Park near the museum. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2015. Mr. Helbing will be on vacation that week, so Mr. Davis will chair the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Christina Cortis
Administrative Clerk