

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**May 9, 2017
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. 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: Michael Helbing, John Halmi, Charles Fineran, David Detrick, William Hann

Guests: Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The April 11, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Hann noted that under the Van Nest-Hoff Vannatta Farmstead Section, the sentence "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 **they** would continue to be financially responsible for the care and maintenance of the Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead." he would like the word "they" changed to "the Historic Preservation Commission" to avoid confusion. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the minutes, as revised. Motion carried.

Warren County Parks Foundation - Mr. Hann inquired what the Parks Foundation has been working on. Mr. Detrick gave an update about ParksFest on June 10th and the work days scheduled on the second Saturday, each month at various parks for trail blazing, brush clearing, building bridges or stairs where needed, site clean-up, etc.

White Lake 10' Proposed Trailer Limit - Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the recommended trailer limit of 10' at White Lake Natural Resource Area. Motion carried.

Permit Requests

- Ridge & Valley Conservancy - Art Show Refreshments at White Lake Barn, June 4, 2017, from 3-6 pm (art show to be held at Vass House). Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the Permit Request by RVC for the June 4, 2017 Art Show Refreshments at the White Lake Barn. Motion carried.
- First United Methodist Church of Blairstown - Easter Sunrise Service at White Lake, Sunday, April 1, 2018. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the First United Methodist Church of Blairstown April 1, 2018 Easter Sunrise Service at White Lake Natural Resource Area, given RVC didn't have any issues with their 2017 Easter Service. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- May 6th Bus Tour was full. The group toured the old Port Murray store and also stopped at Meadowbreeze Park, which were both well-received new stops.
- Plane 6 - Two clean-up days were held onsite and the dumpster has been filled and removed. There is still a lot of work to be done to clean out the turbine chamber. A meeting will be held onsite over the summer with the Morris Canal Committee to develop a future plan for the site, which may have to be run past SHPO.

- Strykers Road - New sign installed. Dog waste stations came in, but haven't been installed yet.
- Mr. Helbing inquired about a Canal Greenway Crossing sign on County Route 519 for pedestrians to cross from the Stine property to Plane 9/Port Warren. Mr. Detrick said the road crossing would tie in with the need for a pedestrian bridge near the Stine property. Ms. Roy said these were addressed as eventual needs in the 25-year plan.
- Plane 9 - A consulting firm will be hired as the project manager. Jim Lee, III will be the Canal Committee's representative to review contracts and work as the liaison. The departments involved in the project will be identified by the Project Manager and proposal packets will then be endorsed by the Freeholders to expedite the process. A safety assessment of the turbine chamber (which is currently closed to the public) will also be completed by the firm that did the initial study.
- Bilby Road - Right of Entry/Access is actively being worked on by the State for the bridge.
- QR Code Project - Plane 9 is done. Working on content for Lock Street. Bread Lock Park may be done next year.

Trails

- Mr. Helbing attended a Warren Highlands Trail meeting; he said there were a lot of regional and local supporters at the meeting. Mr. Helbing said that that everyone that attended came up with a list of action items. Mr. Helbing took the map/guide that Mr. Davis created and highlighted the thirteen biggest concerns, along with text and forwarded it to John Trontis. The State sent the map out with a Doodle poll to include park police for the next Warren Highlands meeting, but none have responded.
- Mr. Helbing discussed some of the issues on county property, such as the washout on Marble Hill due to construction of the new Phillipsburg High School. The county-owned property and easement on the Geiger Tract - the farmer planted right up to the edge of the field and did not leave room for a walking trail, as he has done in the past, he plowed over the carsonite posts, and filled in the drainage/runoff ditch.
- Kiosks - Mr. Detrick noted that a kiosk can be reinstalled on River Road at Marble Hill and one at Belvidere Road, when a final locations of both are determined.
- Mr. Helbing said that volunteer, David Mashburn has been doing a great job keeping Marble Hill clear. Mr. Mashburn told him that it appears someone with a truck ran over one of the picnic tables at the Marble Hill lot and pushed it into the woods and he has also seen a lot of dumping there.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates:

- True - Both appraisals with post-preservation values have been received, but differ greatly. Mr. Tierney reviewed both reports and believes the \$130,000 appraisal is most accurate, because the \$240,000 appraisal does not include certain adjustments, which should have been taken into account. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the offer of \$130,000 for acquisition of the True property. Motion carried.
- Ferrara - Mr. Tierney spoke to a representative from Norfolk Southern Railroad and they are not willing to grant us rights under the culvert for the trail. After a brief discussion, the Board decided they would like to table this to next month and have copies of aerial maps showing the Ferrara property's connections to other relevant sites and discuss this further at next month's meeting.

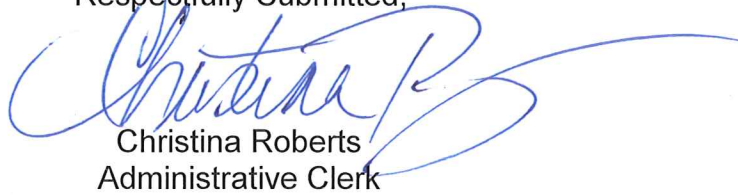
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed several email complains that were received for White Lake. Mr. Hann expressed concern about the accessibility of White Lake and if it was possible to revisit the shoreline fishing areas proposed by Mr. Canace at the last meeting, solely for individuals with disabilities that unable to fish from a boat. The handout Mr. Canace provided for the April meeting will be redistributed so this can be further discussed.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina Roberts", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk