

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**June 13, 2017
MINUTES**

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

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, James Perry

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The May 9, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Tobaygo abstaining. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mayor James Perry from Hardwick Township attended the meeting to voice residents' concerns regarding White Lake. The main complaint he had heard is the lack of shoreline fishing. Other complaints are there are too many rules and regulations, too many signs that take away from the beauty/attraction, people are getting chased out of the park before it is scheduled to close, and they (or their dogs) aren't able to swim in the lake. People have also been told they can't park in the main parking lot at White Lake for events at the Vass House across the street, which they have been permitted to do in the past.

One of the bigger concerns the mayor had was the moving of the helicopter landing zone from the field near the main parking area to the corner of Spring Valley Road and Stillwater Road. Mr. Helbing recalls it being moved due to the seasonally soft ground where it was previously located. The state police and Hardwick Township Office of Emergency Management should have been notified of the move. Mr. Tierney will check into this and report back to Mayor Perry.

Mayor Perry also inquired about the spraying of chemicals on plants at White Lake, such as Round Up. Mr. Tierney and Mr. Helbing explained that, even though they are in the process of restoring and promoting growth of native species of plants, they are still combating invasive species at the lake and some need spraying or other means of chemical eradication.

Proposed Dock Locations - Bob Canace from Ridge & Valley Conservancy (RVC) provided several options for docks along the perimeter of the lake (see attached).

Mayor Perry inquired about standpipe installation for use by the local fire department, if a permanent dock were to be installed. The Mayor also said he we would ask the Hardwick Township Open Space Committee if they would consider putting some of their funding towards the dock.

Mr. Tierney listed the pros and cons for each of the four locations in a presentation, along with the ability for standpipe installation. Locations C & D are the best-suited locations for shoreline fishing/dock installation. Mr. Tierney also provided short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions for shoreline fishing (see attached charts). Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to support Mr.

Tierney's proposed solutions; short-term is to have shoreline fishing available immediately at location D (the new Svenningsen tract) and begin clearing the invasive plants from Location C (to the right of the existing boat launch) and having shoreline fishing also available there once cleared; mid-term installing a gangway and floating dock at location C (and also possibly locations D or B), obtain permits from DEP, and hire a professional to design and construct the docks, and the long-term goal is to have at least one permanent dock at location C with a standpipe installed at that location (with the possibility of another permanent dock at location D or B for fishing). Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- ParkFest has been the Canal Committee's main focus. Mr. Fineran suggested next year's event wind down closer to 4 or 5 pm. Ms. Roy will schedule a meeting to discuss everyone's feedback. Different layout options may be looked into for next year's event, as well. The Parks Foundation may have a standalone tent next year to showcase them as the lead sponsor.
- Port Colden/Plane 6 - A site visit will be held over the summer with the Morris Canal Committee to develop a future plan for the site, which may have to be run past SHPO.

Trails

- Landowner Issues - Mr. Helbing noted the meeting with the state is in two weeks. John Trontis told him not to call State Park police for hostile landowner incidents on State property, but to call municipal police instead.
- 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, and filled in the drainage/runoff ditch. Someone reinstalled the carsonite posts that were previously plowed over.
- Terhune - Just closed on property, so trail connections to Oxford Mountain and Brass Castle can be scouted soon. There may also be a potential overlook. There are some volunteers in the Oxford area that are interested in helping with the trails when that project is ready to be started.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Mr. Fineran noted that Green Township in Sussex County started clearing its property with the old Lehigh/Hudson Railroad bed. From the post office, it crosses CR 517 to Trinca airport, and goes up to Lackawanna Railroad.

Parks Foundation - Mr. Tierney is presenting on the Parks Foundation to the Phillipsburg Rotary on 6/14/17 at noon.

WRNJ - Mr. Tierney did a radio interview about ParkFest that will air on 6/13/17 or 6/14/17.

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Activity on County Property/Draft Park Rules - The Board reviewed the draft Park Rules, prohibiting commercial activity on county property, without written permission from the Board. With no objections to the revisions, the draft rules will be forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for review. Once approved by the Freeholders, the rules will be adopted.

Foodshed Alliance - Mr. Tierney reviewed the farm incubator program that the Foodshed Alliance is working on at Bread Lock Park. The lease agreement will be on the next Freeholder agenda for approval if we get it back from the attorney in time. The Foodshed Alliance is following the guidelines for certified organic crops, even though they will not be certified. The first year, only a cover crop will be planted on the first 5 acres they are leasing to prevent weed growth. The second year, those 5 acres can be farmed and the second 5 acres will be planted with a cover crop. The following year, the second 5 acres can then be farmed. The Foodshed Alliance still needs to obtain equipment and

discussed the possibility of building another barn for storage. Mr. Detrick noted that there will need to be access (for a vehicle) between the park/canal and the planting area for maintenance purposes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates:

- Terhune - Closed on 20 acres. Will scout for a trail.
- True - The landowner rejected the offer of \$130,000, but Mr. Tierney believes that appraisal value is most accurate, because the \$240,000 appraisal did not include certain post-preservation adjustments, which should have been taken into account. The property is being preserved through Highlands.
- Ferrara - The Board is not currently interested in pursuing acquisition of this property since the property does not include the canal towpath and Norfolk Southern Railroad is not willing to grant us rights under the culvert for the trail. Mr. Tierney will check to see who owns the adjacent property that includes the canal.
- M&M Mars - Mr. Helbing inquired if Mr. Tierney had a contact to discuss a potential trail easement. Mr. Detrick will reach out to an employee there to get a phone number for Mr. Helbing.

Maintenance

Port Warren - The garage roof was completed.

The Morris Canal Greenway Trail - The greenway trail on the O'Dowd property was started.

Bread Lock Park Barn - This series of rehabilitation work has been completed. According to the contractor, the cedar siding costs increased so now is not the optimal time to order more materials. But maybe one side of the barn can be done each year until completed. Mr. Tierney will meet with Mr. Margulies to discuss the next steps.

Volunteer Work Days

Mount Rascal - The canal trail was blazed on Trails Day. Another work day will be scheduled to finish up the project - Sunday, June 25th is a possible date.

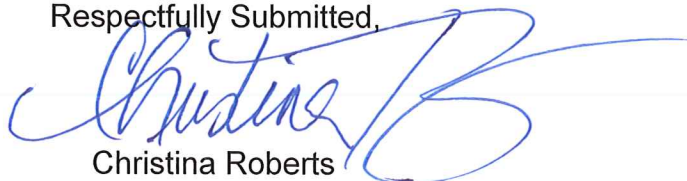
White Lake - The Highlands Project pre-cut the wood for two bridges to be installed. Mr. Detrick will check with RVC regarding availability - possibly July 8th or August 12th for a volunteer work day/installation.

Pump House - Ken Miller inquired about a door fabricator to replace the damaged door for the Pump House, which is a Morton building. The estimate he received was approximately \$4,000. Mr. Helbing will check with one of his contacts.

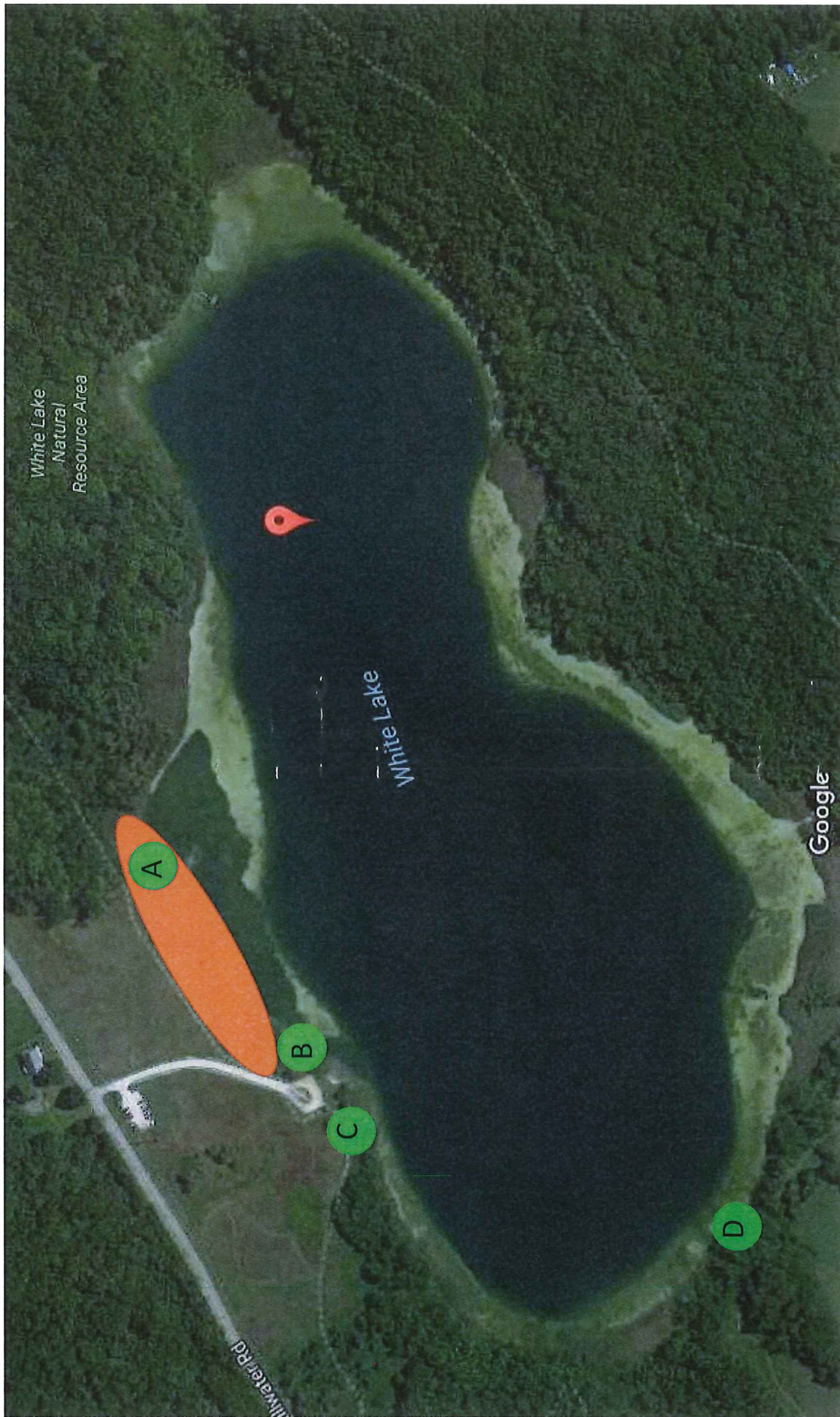
NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk



Fishing Access Options

Location	Existing Shoreline	Dock Potential	Rare Plants	Phragmites	Nearest Parking	Standpipe	Mapped Wetlands
A	Somewhat	Yes	Yes	Yes	~530' (main lot)	Unlikely	No
B	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	~550' (main lot)	Possible	Yes
C	Yes	Yes	No	Somewhat	~560' (main lot)	Possible	No
D	Yes	Yes	No	No	~1,300' (road)	Unlikely	No



Shoreline Fishing Accommodations

- Short Term (2017)
 - Allow shoreline fishing from Location D and limited parking in field
 - Clear invasive vegetation at Location C to allow shoreline fishing
- Midterm (2017 - 2018)
 - Install floating dock and gangway at Location C
 - Retain professionals to design/permit any potential permanent dock(s)
(specs to be determined by Board upon further study)
- Long Term (2018+)
 - Construct permanent dock(s)