

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**July 9, 2019
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts, Elizabeth Roy

MINUTES: The June 11, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Davis abstaining. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bee Huts - Dawn Smith from the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission submitted a request for permission to install bee huts on county properties in around Mansfield Township within the Morris Canal Greenway areas (Port Murray Preserve and Florence Kuipers Park) near Hoffman, Brickyard, Towpath, Grand/Rockport. The bee huts would provide an intracommunity means of increasing awareness, knowledge and understanding regarding solitary bees as important pollinators, and increase pollinator populations through the installation of bee huts to increase habitat within and around open space located inside/bordering the sizable municipality of Mansfield Township.

- Mason bees do not have a queen to protect and do not live in a hive.
- They are non-social, they also do not swarm.
- Mason bees are some of the earliest bees to emerge after the cold winter
- There are about 140 species of mason bees in North America. All are solitary bees.
- The males do not have a stinger, and the females will only sting if trapped or squeezed. This makes them an ideal neighbor for the home garden, since they pose little to no threat of stinging.

Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the placement of the bee huts in the parks; subject to the Department's review and approval of proposed locations. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Inclined Plane Animated Film - The canal animation was well-received at Waterloo. There was discussion regarding the film being made available for the public to view online or using it as a means to draw people in to the museums to view the film. Both would have their benefits, but Mr. Detrick suggested waiting to make a decision.
- Port Colden - A work day will be scheduled on either the third or fourth Saturday of July to continue work at the site.
- Museum of Industrial History - Mr. Helbing brought a group from the Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem, PA to tour Inclined Plane 9 and Bread Lock Park on June 30th. Several members may be interested in the fall bus tour.

Trails

- Plane 5 - Getting overgrown; wait until fall after plants die off to trim back and to determine best use of the site.

- Chainsaw Use - There was a lengthy discussion reading chainsaw use on county property. Several options discussed were: increasing NJ Youth Corps funding to hire someone dedicated to Warren County with chainsaw certification; have the Parks Foundation become a NYNJ Trail conference member to utilize their training; reach out to the state to see if they would adopt the Warren Highlands Trail and enter into a management agreement with the county. Options will continue to be researched.
- Marble Hill - More tree work is needed on the yellow trail and some areas need reblazing.
- NJ TPA Grant - Mr. Tierney, Mr. Dech, and Ms. Roy attended a kickoff meeting and are working on a revised scope of work. There are very few applicable guidelines to follow, but it is slowly moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Cheema Trail Easement - An application was submitted to the Planning Board for the gas station at the intersection of 46 & 31 which includes the donation of a trail easement behind the property, at no expense to the county. Green Acres is interested, but the process would likely take too long; there will be the option to transfer from the county to the state in the future, if desired. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to accept the donation of the Cheema trail easement. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

Barbieri - Draft survey was received.

Cacciapaglia - The larger lot has a sizeable area of dumping, primarily of construction debris. The landowner does not have the funds to pay for the site remediation, as it is fairly extensive. Mr. Tierney proposed to the landowner that the shared lot line be adjusted, leaving two lots while just changing their respective sizes; or to effect a subdivision by purchasing a portion of the lot in order to create a new lot and place a conservation/trail easement over the remaining portion. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to proceed with the acquisition of the property as proposed by Mr. Tierney with a conservation/trail easement over the portion of the lot requiring remediation. Motion carried. The proceeds of the sale could then be used by the landowner to afford the site remediation. Once complete, the landowner would have the option to sell the county the excluded portion of the lot. The PAR is expected to be submitted by the end of the week.

Pierra & Saga - Mr. Hann inquired about the canal easements and the Noel/Stull properties. Mr. Tierney received the signed offer letter from the Pierra/Pear Tree property.

Noel/Stull - The canal is located on the Stull property, but is close to the house. Mr. Tierney will follow up with landowners. If Stull is not interested in selling the canal portion, the Board asked Mr. Tierney to pursue obtaining a trail easement on the Noel property which would run parallel to the canal.

Cowey Tract - Mr. Helbing said there was a nice section of the canal on the property and the landowners have recently passed, but Mr. Detrick believes the property may already be under contract with a buyer. Mr. Tierney will look into the property and possibly contact the new owners.

Maintenance

Bread Lock Park Barn and Plane 9 Improvements - Mr. Detrick inquired about completion of the siding on the Bread Lock Park barn. Mr. Tierney would like to purchase the lumber and supplies this fall and then plan for construction next year.

Mr. Detrick also inquired if funding the barn siding project would interfere with the improvements to the turbine chamber at Plane 9. Mr. Tierney said the funds for materials have already been encumbered and Ms. Roy doesn't believe the labor was tremendously expensive, but will confirm estimated labor costs at the next meeting.

Shippen Manor

- Ms. Rosseland is working with several local schools to incorporate projects/visits at Shippen Manor into their curriculum.

- The architect, Mr. Margulies, is drafting improvement plans for the exterior of Shippen Manor, which include porches, window work, soffits, and gutters. The freeholders have allocated \$300,000 towards exterior improvements and applications for matching grants from NJ Historic Trust and the 1772 Foundation will be submitted. Students may be able to help with some of the interior repairs through their school programs, otherwise the project will need to be contracted out.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk