

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**July 11, 2017
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:09 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, Matthew Davis

Members Absent: Raymond Tobaygo

Guests: Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The June 13, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Davis abstaining. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

White Lake Update - A copy of the June 2017 Update of Management Activities was sent out with the agenda and minutes for the Board to review.

2017 Block Grant - The Department received a letter from Green Acres that we will not be awarded Block Grant funding for the 2017 round, but to reapply for the next round (there will be annual funding rounds). Mr. Tierney has identified some priority projects that the Department will be sending outreach letters to.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Port Colden/Plane 6 - A site visit was held with the Morris Canal Committee to develop a future plan for the site. The plan will be sent to SHPO for clarification and to help determine which buildings to demolish and which ones should be saved. The site will not be open to the public until deemed safe.
- Bus Tour - The next bus tour is Saturday, September 30th.
- Plane 9 - Mr. Tierney is waiting to hear back from the Purchasing Dept. regarding the approval of a proposal from an engineer to make recommendations for safety improvements to Plane 9. They are still awaiting proposals for a project manager.
- Maintenance - Mr. Helbing noted that the entire Morris Canal Greenway Trail is cleared (possibly by the group that Jakob Franke used to head), except the state-owned portion at Saxton Lake (continued under Trails).

There was discussion regarding the amount of maintenance work that the Youth Corps does. Mr. Tierney would like to keep the Youth Corps focused on the western portion of the County (west of Route 31). Some of the Parks Foundation volunteers could possibly fill the gap in maintenance needs by mowing and weed-whacking as needed.

Countryside & Towpath Apartments and M&M Mars - Outreach needs to be done to arrange meetings with site managers at each property regarding trail easements/connections and volunteer coordination.

Mount Rascal - Mr. Tierney spoke to the Director of the HMUA at the Hills of Independence and she is amenable to the trail being routed up their gravel lane, past the water tank, onto the state land.

Trails

Maintaining County Trails on State Land - Mr. Tierney said that if we have the resources, he is amenable to it, but until then, maintaining the trails on county property are the priority. Mr. Helbing attended a meeting in Trenton. The state said the Warren Highlands Trail can be moved to Belvidere Road. For any problems on state land, call 1-877-WARN-DEP.

Marble Hill - Mr. Helbing also noted all of the dumping issues that have been going on at Marble Hill and how helpful volunteer, David Mashburn has been in keeping the area cleaned-up and maintained. Mr. Helbing said the washout areas have also gotten much worse at Marble Hill.

Volunteer Appreciation Event - A breakfast with awards for the Department's volunteer groups is being planned for Friday, September 29th. More details to follow.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Warren County Farmers Fair - July 29th - August 5th.

Bridges at White Lake - Two Bridges were completed at White Lake this past Saturday by Parks Foundation volunteers and RVC staff.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates:

Outreach - Outreach letters will be sent to properties that have been prioritized, close to Bread Lock Park - Janecko, Chiu, and working east. Some may not include the canal, but may provide important connections. There is another property across from the Community College, owned by Pear Tree Associates, but we are awaiting the CMVs from Green Acres for Sigler and Tasevski to see how they fared with the groundwater contamination issue before pursuing this property.

There is also a preserved farm, which would have to undergo a voluntary condemnation to unpreserve a portion of the property to put a trail easement on it and then the county would have to reimburse the SADC. There are also some properties in Port Murray and Washington that have some potential to build on, as well.

Stowaway Self-Storage - The owner of wants some assurance that by selling the easement, it won't affect the developability of the rest of his property.

Santini (Strykers Road) - Landowner wants highest appraisal value. Board agrees to wait and see what happens with Stowaway Self-Storage first.

Santini (Lock Street) - Albert is updating the GA map. Will be appraised in two parts - conservation and access easement and additional spur with a trail easement. Will get separate values in case the landowner is amenable to one vs. the other. Negotiations on this property may impact the Strykers Road property.

Albulescu - Appraisals at Green Acres, awaiting CMV.

Crouse Farm - Meeting with SADC; Mr. Tierney not optimistic that Department will get any more funding for farmers. Landowners removed two other lots from the application and now only includes everything south of the road.

Benbrook - PAR and survey underway. Any debris that was found on the property is being removed so it has a clean PAR, which will streamline the process. Mr. Tierney hopes to close this summer.

Cacciapaglia - Landowners holding out to see if they get a better offer.

Pool - Mr. Tierney will wait to see when the property closes and reach out to the new landowner.

Mohican Farm - Mr. Canace suggested the county hire an engineer to review the dam reports. The Board suggested Mr. Tierney ask the Freeholders what their stance is on the property before the Board makes any recommendations.

Maintenance

The Morris Canal Greenway Trail - The greenway trail on the O'Dowd property is being completed. Some of the surface gravel washed away with a recent storm and may need to be regraded. Once the planting is done and grown in, it should hopefully help eliminate this in the future. Mr. Detrick asked if there would be any parking on Richline Road or North Main Street. On North Main, we have conservation and access easement from the driveway up, so we can potentially put parking there as trail infrastructure. Mr. Tierney will ask the Planning Department about the best area for parking. Phase 2 of the trail will connect O'Dowd behind the solar, past the field, to Bread Lock Park. Mr. Tierney asked the Board if they thought it should be continued as a gravel trail. The Board agreed that since areas of the towpath needs to be graded, it might as well be gravel.

Mr. Tierney spoke to Frank Pinto, who is a consultant for Greenwich Township regarding our interest in the municipal lot next to the rescue squad. We would someday like to bring the trail across the river to the canal and would need an agreement with the Township or for the Township to convey the lot to the County.

Contingency Greenway - Mr. Davis inquired about the possibility of a contingency greenway trail along Route 57. Mr. Tierney said that since it is in the state right-of-way, it is a good question for Brian Appezzatto from Planning.

Volunteer Work Days

Mount Rascal - The red, black, and white trails have been marked. Some clearing still needs to be done and puncheons installed in some of the wetter areas.

Bread Lock Park - Next volunteer work day is August 12th. Details will be sent out via email.

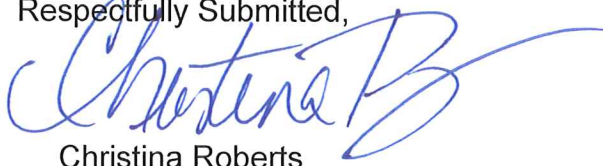
NJ Transportation Planning Authority (TPA) - TPA is starting outreach next week for a statewide Morris Canal Greenway Study. Applications can be submitted for trail grants to address the safety of certain road walk sections of the Canal Trail.

Geiger Tract - Mr. Hann inquired about the farmer that planted to the edge of the field and did not leave room for a walking trail. Mr. Helbing said you can still walk through a narrow area along the edge, but he plans on installing taller trail markers. Future farm leases could require the farmer to keep a walking trail mowed, but enforcing it may be a challenge.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2017, but Mr. Tierney will be away. Mr. Helbing said that if there aren't any important actions to be voted on, the meeting can be canceled or site visits for Commissioners to any of the county properties.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk