

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**July 12, 2016
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Detrick opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Halmi, David Detrick, Charles Fineran, William Hann

Members Absent: Michael Helbing, Matt Davis, Raymond Tobaygo

Guests: Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The June 14, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- In August, the Canal Committee will be having a site visit meeting instead of a regular business meeting.
- August 20th at 10 a.m. at Lock 4, just beyond Saxton Falls there will be a 100th anniversary commemorative paddling of a canoe that was used on the canal.
- Plane 6 Port Colden - Mr. Detrick said they are working on a plan to remove the tires at the site, which could possibly be an Eagle Scout project. He also noted that the Board should determine a site plan for the location, such as parking, stairs, kiosk, signage, etc. Several other tasks that need to be done onsite are: cleaning up the stones, installing kiosks, installing stairs, and installing a grate over the chamber. Mr. Detrick inquired whether and to what extent the site should be open to the public. Mr. Tierney suggested that the site should be opened only for limited supervised visitation, such as group activities and tours, but not open to the general public or promoted until further improvements have been made and neighbors have been notified. The main concerns are safety and getting the site secure.
- Mr. Fineran noted that Jim Lee, Jr., his wife, and son, Jim Lee, III and had a nice Morris Canal presentation and display at Waterloo with lots of old photos, along with present day photos of the canal. Mr. Hann also attended and agreed it was a very nice presentation.

Trails

- Mr. Tierney, Nick Cosimano, and Elizabeth Roy scouted and flagged the canal trail at Mount Rascal, as part of the next Parks Foundation volunteer workday project. There are a couple areas that are dense with briars and sticker bushes that will need clearing. If there are any areas that are too difficult for the group to handle, the NJ Youth Corps may be able to help clear.

ACQUISITION UPDATES

Logothetis - Mr. Tierney left a message with the landowner. He will continue to try and get a response.

Pool - Mr. Tierney left a message with the realtor. He will continue to try to reach them.

Ferrara - Mr. Tierney has not contacted the railroad company yet to seek permission to use railroad culvert as part of the trail, but plans to do so prior to the next meeting.

Jonestown Road - Received the survey and the Preliminary Assessment Report (PAR) is being updated.

Terhune - Still waiting for the forester to be done logging. Landowner anticipates they should be done by the time he returns from vacation at the end of July. Mr. Tierney will visit the property once the logging is done to make sure there are no issues prior to going forward.

Svenningsen - Closing in the next week or two. The loop trail around White Lake can then be completed.

Cornell Kenyon - Received the PAR; survey is underway. The seller would like to close in early 2017.

Weiss Farm - The state owns property all around the farm, but they didn't want to obtain this property because of the buildings. Mr. Tierney is looking into whether the Highlands Trail can be routed through the property due to the conservation easement. It has its own overpass on Route 80. The lot also has some river frontage. There are a lot of factors that need to be clarified prior to any action being taken. Mr. Tierney is also looking into farmland preservation, possibly with a recreation aspect. Foodshed Alliance is looking for a property to establish a "farm incubator" start-up program to train future farmers, so this property may be a good candidate.

MAINTENANCE

Port Murray Parking Area - The Road Department will look into a solution regarding the soft gravel issue in the parking lot prior to opening the park up to the public. NJ Youth Corps will be installing the sign with the kiosk installation soon to follow by the Highlands Project.

White Lake - The Lake has been very busy with lots of traffic. Mr. Tierney addressed complaints that he received and explained the new loop at the waterfront. He suggested that a site visit be planned for Board members to see what's new at the site and to address a number of ongoing concerns.

Bread Lock Park & Stine Barn Repairs - Mr. Tierney will review the specifications provided by Eclectic Architecture and report back to the Board.

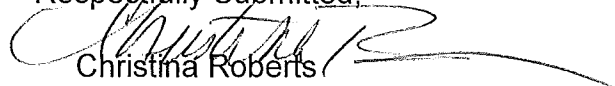
OTHER BUSINESS

Geocaching - We received an inquiry about geocaching at Warren County Parks. Mr. Tierney suggested that we can permit the activity as long as it doesn't cause any damage or alter any property. Mr. Tierney will look up the state's policy and have it available for review at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk