

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**July 14, 2015  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Michael Helbing, William Hann, Jr., John Halmi, David Detrick, Matthew Davis, Charles Fineran

**Members Absent:** Raymond Tobaygo

**Guests:** Elizabeth Roy, Gregg Hudis, Nathan Hartshorne, Eric Marsjanik

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

**MINUTES:** The June 9, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Bill Hann made a motion, seconded by John Halmi to approve the minutes as presented; Matthew Davis and Charlie Fineran abstained. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**Morris Canal Committee**

- The next Morris Canal Committee meeting will be held at 7:30 tonight.
- A kickoff meeting for the Plane 9 turbine chamber restoration project will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Kiosk signs are being reprinted.
- Security system at Bread Lock Park museum should be completed by tomorrow.
- The Millers contacted Nick in the Engineering Department regarding the stability of the bridge at Plane 9, which is the main access road to their home. A weight limit will likely be enforced until permanent repairs can be made. Any larger vehicles or vehicles exceeding the weight limit will need to enter via Thomas Carling Drive. Driveway repairs and maintenance to fix the grading and potholes will be done by the Road Department when they get a chance.

**Trails**

Port Murray Preserve - Mike Helbing asked when a parking lot will be approved for the site. Mr. Tierney said the Engineering Dept. needs to check the grading, then it has to be approved by the town, and then coordinated with the Road Department, so he doesn't expect anything to be done until at least the fall.

Mr. Helbing said that more volunteers are needed to help keep trails clear. The more trails we have, the more people are needed to maintain them. He also noted that taller, more durable posts need to be installed. Mr. Hann volunteered to help maintain the Geiger Tract.

Matt Davis is still working on putting the trail plan he prepared into text to be included in the Open Space Plan. He will get that to Mr. Tierney soon.

## **Public Awareness**

Department Website - The website is continuing to be developed and information is being gathered to include on the website. Updates will be given as the website gets farther along.

Ingersoll Rand - Trail development on the site could potentially tie into the Lock Street project.

## **White Lake Update**

Nathan Hartshorne, an intern working for The Nature Conservancy, reported on updates at White Lake:

- While putting up boundary markers, he found several ATV tracks.
- Volunteers helped clean up some overgrowth of woody vegetation around the Marl Works ruins.
- Mr. Hartshorne continues to work on eradicating invasive species of plants. He said there is a lot of wild parsnip; some areas, he has been selective mowing or spraying with herbicide. Tree of Heaven continues to be a problem.
- Shandor Bench - Bill Hann asked about the path to the bench; Mr. Hartshorne reported that the path is clear, but because of its location, he has never seen anyone use it. Mr. Tierney suggested that once the ground dries out a bit, it may be a good idea to relocate the bench to a better, less sensitive area.
- The boat launch area is a problem area with underage drinking. Mr. Hartshorne stated that he had to repair the gate to the boat launch from trucks driving through it, twice in the several weeks he's been working at White Lake. Mr. Hann stated that there was a local fishing group that volunteered to keep an eye out for any unfavorable activities at the lake.
- Eric Marsjanik, a resident from the area, said that high school kids are always near the boat launch, drinking beer. Mr. Tierney suggested that once Ridge and Valley Conservancy has a full-time land steward living on the property, a gate may be installed across the main entrance to the driveway that will be opened each morning and closed after-hours.
- Graffiti is also still a problem on the Marl Works.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Acquisition Updates**

Santini - The Department is looking at acquiring the land north of the canal up to Lopatcong Creek and then a 50' conservation easement south of the canal to install a vegetative buffer to help prevent further erosion of the towpath and canal.

Terhune - The property is currently being surveyed.

Acquisition Reports - Dave Detrick suggested that Mr. Tierney add a section at the end of his Acquisition Report for inactive projects or projects awaiting response or further action.

### **Working Group Updates**

Matt Davis has been reviewing the proposed Park Rules and doesn't see the need to make any further revisions, as most municipalities have rules and ordinances of their own that can supersede the Park Rules. Exceptions to some rules can be made of a park/location-specific basis. Mr. Tierney will resend the Park Rules out with the next agenda for final Board review and approval at the next meeting; they will then be forwarded to the Freeholders for their approval.

Mountain Biking - There was a discussion regarding mountain biking at various Warren County parks. It was determined that allowing mountain bikes on the trails has pros and cons. If JORBA is interested in using our trails, they may be willing to help maintain them for safety purposes for the bike riders, as they use national standards. Matt Davis also suggested giving Genesis Bicycles, Marty's, and the bike shop in Phillipsburg copies of the Marble Hill brochure to let them know it is available for use.

Horseback Riding - Mr. Hann inquired about horseback riding at Warren County parks. One of the main concerns is parking for horse trailers. If the area has sufficient parking, horseback riders are welcome to use the trails. Areas with ample parking for large trucks with trailers should be noted on the website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Warren County Parks Foundation** - Mr. Tierney filed the Certificate of Formation for the Parks Foundation and should begin to take shape soon. The founding trustees are Mr. Tierney, Dave Detrick, and Mike Muckle. Dave Dech and Elizabeth Roy from Planning have also been instrumental in the formation of the Foundation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Eric Marsjanik from Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit attended the meeting to request the Board's permission to use White Lake for their underwater recovery drills. Mr. Marsjanik stated that they currently use Round Valley for their drill site, but they are looking for other bodies of water to practice in. They will not disturb any environmentally sensitive areas and in return, they can provide underwater clean-up of trash in the lake and underwater photography for use on the website. They can also help with mapping of the lake. Dave Detrick made a motion, seconded by Bill Hann to approve their use of the lake, but noted that there should be a written agreement and that the approval is solely for this specific purpose. Motion carried.

Mr. Tierney will contact Round Valley Reservoir for a copy of their agreement with Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit to use as a model to create an agreement for White Lake.

Mr. Fineran suggested the Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit contact Steve Ellis from NJ State Parks regarding possible use of Allamuchy Pond for drills.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts  
Administrative Clerk