

WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179
Oxford, NJ 07863

August 15, 2017
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 4:56 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Michael Helbing, John Halmi, David Detrick, Matthew Davis, Raymond Tobaygo

Members Absent: Charles Fineran, William Hann

Guests: Elizabeth Roy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The July 11, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Tobaygo abstaining. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

EcoTeam at White Lake - Ridge & Valley Conservancy is working with Antler Ridge on a proposal for an "EcoTeam" to control invasive species of plants at White Lake, which has been successful at other locations. The Eco Team would consist of two sheep and three goats that would be contained by snow fencing in a designated area near the lake. RVC would apply for a federal grant to cover expenses related to the EcoTeam and would accept all responsibility and liability associated with the animals. The animals would also be under the care of a vet and supervised by RVC and Antler Ridge. However, it appears the site of the EcoTeam may create an issue with the newly-designated on-shore fishing location near the boat launch. The Board discussed the option of moving the goats and sheep to a different spot or limiting their access to the lake to not disrupt the on-shore fishing. The Board had several questions and concerns and would like Mr. Canace to attend the September meeting to discuss them. This topic will be tabled until the next meeting.

Definition of "Boat" in Rules – RVC reported that there have been issues with people using inner tubes or inflatable pool rafts on White Lake and trying to pass them off as "boats". A clearer definition of a boat should be included in the Park Rules for safety reasons. Mr. Helbing suggested using the US Coast Guard's definition. Mr. Tierney said Mr. Canace had a definition in mind from New York State, but it hadn't been forwarded in time for the meeting. It was also suggested that Merrill Creek's definition of a boat could also be used. An appropriate definition will be determined and proposed at the September meeting.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Plane 9 - Next week, the firm doing the conditions assessment at Plane 9 will begin itemizing what is onsite and what will need to be addressed.
- NJ Transportation Planning Authority (TPA) - A meeting is scheduled on August 22nd from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building to take part in statewide Morris Canal Greenway Corridor Study.

- Bus Tour - The next bus tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 30th.
- QR Code Project - Some glitches in the program due to an Apple update have been resolved.
- Morris Canal Trail - The canal greenway trail, west of Bread Lock Park may need additional parking off of North Main Street. Some street parking is available, but there is potential for a couple spaces in the grassy section. Due to the recent rain, it is also fairly muddy there. The right-of-way will need to be clarified, the "no trespassing" sign will be removed, and kiosks will be installed off North Main and Richline Road, along with new signage.

Trails

- Warren Highlands Trail - Mr. Helbing said that the trail has been re-cleared from Marble Hill to Kelly Lane. He received permission from the State to relocate part of the trail where he was having issues with some of the neighbors, straight through the weeded area, to Belvidere Road. It will take some work to clear it initially, but it should be easier to maintain, be more recognizable as a trail, along with creating more of a buffer between the trail and the neighbors.
- Harkers Hollow - Mr. Helbing found out who the new owner of Harkers Hollow will be; the closing on the property is scheduled for the end of the month. The new owner has experience with properties being adjacent to public land.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates:

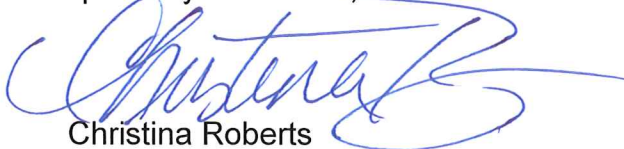
Outreach - Outreach letters were sent to properties containing sections of the Morris Canal that have been prioritized, close to Bread Lock Park. Several landowners have responded to the letters, but had some questions and concerns. Mr. Tierney provide updates to the Board once he gets further with negotiations.

Towpath Apartments - Mr. Tierney contacted Towpath Apartments to inquire about an easement. The manager brought the request to the owners group and they were not interested. Mr. Tierney will contact them again once there are connections on both sides.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Davis motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk