

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**September 8, 2015
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:07 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, Charles Fineran, Raymond Tobaygo

Members Absent: Matthew Davis

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The August 11, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Charlie Fineran made a motion, seconded by John Halmi to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Some of the Morris Canal signs along the highway will have markers on the bottom of the sign with historic canal mileage from Phillipsburg to Jersey City.
Mr. Detrick said the Canal Committee is looking into having QR codes for smartphones at Morris Canal sites that will provide brief descriptions and site-specific information.
- Steve Ellis from State Parks inquired about the Highlands Project making mules for Waterloo Village. Since the Highlands Project doesn't have time to dedicate to the project, Mr. Ellis will be sending their maintenance supervisor to look at the plans for the mule project.

Trails

Phillipsburg Trail Committee - Mr. Detrick met with some people from the Phillipsburg Trail Committee and they would like to coordinate with the Board of Recreation Commissioners on for trail marking. They have also ordered a kiosk from the Highlands Project to be installed at the trail head of their system. Mr. Helbing suggested that a representative from Easton, PA be involved in those meetings.

Marble Hill - Mike Helbing noted there was an error on the map regarding the location of the overlook.

Port Murray - The stairway and the bridge crossing the first stream are installed. There is a steep hill leading up to the trolley line and a lot of overgrowth that would need to be cleared, so would most likely be a mid-winter project. Mr. Tierney suggested meeting on site with Mr. Helbing and Mr. Detrick to help determine the best path.

Mr. Helbing has not received permission to mark trails from Harkers Hollow to Fox Farm Road yet; he may not receive an answer until the new farm lease is signed.

Mr. Helbing discussed the use of chainsaws to clear bigger projects like fallen trees on trails. An agreement with NJ Youth Corps to borrow equipment for work on County property may be looked into. It was also inquired as to whether a chainsaw can be purchased by the Department under their maintenance budget, for use on County property. Mr. Tierney's main concern is that the person using

the chainsaw is trained or qualified and covered by insurance; this is most easily accomplished by working under one of the existing nonprofit agreements.

White Lake Video - Krysti Sabins from Unboring Exploring will be doing a brief video interview with Mr. Helbing on White Lake for the Department's website. Mr. Tierney suggested similar videos could be done for the Warren Highlands Trail and/or the Morris Canal greenway. Mr. Helbing is currently in the process of videoing the entire Warren Highlands Trail.

OLD BUSINESS

Acquisition Updates

O'Dowd - The contract has been signed and returned; there are some revisions to the terms of the addendum. Mr. Tierney also discussed the access easement on the O'Dowd property for the solar farm. It will be underground, so it won't affect our trail easement.

White/Woo - Contract has been sent to landowners for signature.

Logothetis - RFPs for appraisals have been issued.

Ferrara - The property along the canal in Port Murray is being reappraised. The house on the property is being excepted out.

Carfaro - Mr. Tierney will follow-up with Green Acres; we haven't heard back from them.

Jonestown Road - The Purchase Agreement is on the 9/9/15 Freeholder agenda to be signed.

Pool - Mr. Helbing inquired about the condition of the house. Mr. Tierney would like to purchase the land and except out the house, if possible.

Permit Requests

Parking Permit - Barb Merritt submitted a parking permit request. She works at Warren County Special Services School District and would like to park her vehicle at Bread Lock Park during the school day. Dave Detrick made a motion, seconded by Ray Tobaygo to approve Ms. Merritt's permit request. Motion carried.

OK4DW October Truckfest - OK4WD submitted a permit request to use Bread Lock Park for additional parking for their October Truckfest on 10/18/15. Dave Detrick made a motion, seconded by Bill Hann to approve their permit request. Motion carried.

Church Picnic - The event passed prior to the Board meeting. The Department issued a permit for the event in the interim. The Board is in support of the permit.

Future Permit Requests - Dave Detrick made a motion, seconded by Bill Hann to allow the Department of Land Preservation to grant permit requests, at their discretion for events at Bread Lock Park with short-notice or less than 100 people. Motion carried.

Dates for all events at Bread Lock Park will be checked with Mr. Detrick prior to approval. Permits will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. Permits issued by the Department in between meetings will be reported on at the following Board meeting. The number of port-a-johns per the number of people anticipated will also be looked into.

Municipal & Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee Open Space Application - The open space application for MCCTFC funding for the Footbridge Park Expansion in Blairstown was sent to Board members for their review. Members expressed support, but no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Pavilion at Bread Lock Park - Mr. Detrick discussed the proposed pavilion at Bread Lock Park. It would be to the left of the museum, in the shady area near the grove of trees. The pavilion would be the same design as the one over the canal boat replica, with a gravel base. Between 8 - 10 picnic tables and several charcoal grills would fit under the pavilion. Mr. Tobaygo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the construction of the pavilion. Motion carried.

Parking Plans for Strykers Road - Ms. Roy from Planning is working on getting the plans approved.

Port Warren - The Department asked Jim Lee, III to get estimates on repairs for the house.

Port Murray - Preliminary parking plans for Hoffman Road were sent to the town engineer, Mike Finelli. If we can get approvals this month, the parking area could be done by fall.

Ridge & Valley Conservancy - RVC took over stewardship of White Lake on September 1st. A meeting was held with Bob Canace, from RVC, and Albert Krouse and Dave Dech from Planning to discuss the RVC trail.

Florence Kuipers - A new gate was installed to prevent vehicles from going under the bridge. Ms. Roy is working on a map to put in the kiosk. The Rockport WMA Trail should be completed by October, in time for a grand opening event. Mr. Helbing inquired about having vertically-oriented maps installed at some of the secondary parking areas.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area - A handout was provided regarding the Visitor Use Management Plan; they are seeking public comments and suggestions.

Ridge & Valley Trail - A meeting was held on September 1st with Bob Canace, from RVC, and Albert Krouse and Dave Dech from the Planning Dept. to discuss the inclusion of the RVC trail in the Open Space Plan.

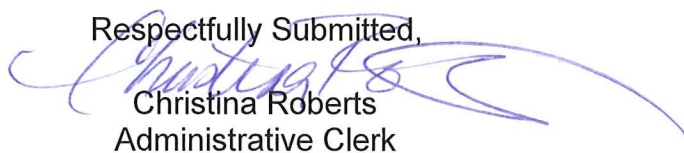
Highlands Council Funding - Mr. Tierney reported that funds will be available for open space and farmland preservation grants with 50% match. Funds will be prioritized by the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Open Space projects could potentially be funded 100% between Green Acres and Highlands. Funds are coming from the Roseland Power Line Mitigation settlement.

Northwest Sun Farming - The State inquired if Warren County is interested in contributing funds for the acquisition of the Northwest Sun Farming property, which is adjacent to Worthington State Forest. The Board was in agreement that the acquisition doesn't fit into the Open Space Plan. Mr. Hann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to not participate in this project. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on October 13, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk