

**WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**September 9, 2014  
MINUTES**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on September 9, 2014 at the Department of Land Preservation office, 500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford, New Jersey. Chairman Helbing called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. An announcement was read as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6-21. The Commissioners and Staff participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Matthew Davis, David Detrick, Charles Fineran, John Halmi,  
Michael Helbing, Raymond Tobaygo

Absent: William Hann

Staff: Corey Tierney, Teresa Kaminski

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 were approved on a motion by Mr. Detrick which was seconded by Mr. Tobaygo.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Morris Canal Committee

- ◆ Mr. Detrick announced that the bus tour is full for October 4<sup>th</sup>. The County Engineer will be involved in the work on the tail race at Plane 9. Ms. Roy and Mr. Dech from the Planning Dept. will be meeting with the DEP to see if the DEP can facilitate canal projects and adjust regulations. There was a church picnic at Bread Lock Park and about 150 visited the museum this past Sunday.

Chairman Helbing stated that he escorted a gentleman who was on vacation from England around the County to see the Morris Canal sites. The gentleman came specifically to see the Morris Canal and was very excited.

Rails to Trails, Warren Trails, White Lake

- ◆ Chairman Helbing noted that the parking lot to Port Murray preserve still needs to be cleared. Mr. Tierney said that there are several maintenance items, including the Port Murray parking area, which the Youth Corps has been unable to complete.
- ◆ Chairman Helbing met with members from Merrill Creek Reservoir regarding multi-use trails beginning from Fox Farm Road. They only allow hiking; they do not allow bikes or horses. Mr. Tierney said that while the Warren Highlands Trail is a county project, trail users must abide by the landowners' rules when passing through state or private land. Mr. Helbing agreed and recommended that we install signs, with Merrill Creek approval, indicating any trail restrictions.
- ◆ Chairman Helbing stated that so far there has been no success for a trail connection at Harker's Hollow.
- ◆ Chairman Helbing stated that the trail connection to Hoff-Vannatta farm in Harmony Township should be named "Harmony Trail" and will submit the connection of the trail to Land

Management for review. Mr. Fineran made a motion to have the connection spur at Hoff-Vannatta be named "Harmony Trail" and to put in signage on the trail which was seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion carries.

#### Public Awareness

- ◆ Chairman Helbing will consider holding a New Year's Day hike at 9:30 am, called the "First Day Hike" from Merrill Creek Reservoir to Phillipsburg in order to promote this newest section of the Warren Highlands trail.
- ◆ Chairman Helbing would like to have a hike for public awareness corresponding with Hoff-Vannatta's Christmas Event on December 4, 2014.
- ◆ Mr. Fineran noted that he installed kiosks along the Warren Highlands trail section passing through Allamuchy Township (connecting the Lehigh Hudson Rail Trail to Alphano Road).
- ◆ Mr. Davis spoke about two events he would like to put together: (1) a hike from Port Murray to Hart's Lane and (2) a hike from Morris Canal at Plane 10 to Phillipsburg as a photography event to photograph the historical sites in the town.
- ◆ Mr. Tierney stated that Warren County Preservation Day is tentatively scheduled to be held at Rutherford Hall in Allamuchy Township on Saturday May 30, 2015. He will setup a meeting with representatives from Rutherford Hall to start planning the event and invited the Board members to join. Mr. Helbing, Mr. Fineran, and Mr. Detrick would like to attend.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **ACQUISITION UPDATE**

##### Mann/Barringer, Lopatcong Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that he hopes to close this property soon.

##### O'Dowd, Franklin & Greenwich Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that Green Acres issued CMV on this property, but that he is waiting for the SADC to issue CMV on the farmland preservation portions. He will then discuss same with the CADB before an offer is made.

##### North Central Realco, Franklin Twp. & Greenwich Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that he is waiting for Green Acres to issue the CMV on the property and then can make an offer.

##### Janecko, Franklin Twp.

Letter of interest was sent to the landowner, but no response has been received to date

##### Carl Crouse, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the landowners are not interested in having a trail easement for the Morris Canal property placed over their farmland which is currently in application for farmland preservation. Mr. Fineran made a motion to recommend to the CADB that an exception be taken so as not to foreclose the possibility of a future trail easement. Mr. Halmi seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

##### White/Woo, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the appraisals are underway.

##### Handlos, Mansfield Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the property is under contract and a survey is due in mid-September.

Pool, Mansfield Twp.

No update.

Independence Land Holdings, Independence Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that he expects the signed contracts from the landowners any day now. He will check with Green Acres, but believes the state will be paying for the survey and environmental assessment of the property.

Jonestown Road, Oxford Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the appraisal report is being revised based on change in mapping of the property.

Terhune, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that he made a verbal offer to the landowner and sent a follow up letter, but is waiting for a response.

Svenningsen, Hardwick Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that an offer was made to the landowners for the highest of the two appraisals values, but that the landowners rejected it as being too low and for concerns about privacy.

Lehigh Valley Hudson RR, White Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that Oscar Unangst of White township who currently has a farmland application for preservation also owns the lot for the RR next to his farm and Mr. Tierney will reach out to the landowner about acquiring that portion for a trail connection.

**MAINTENANCE**

Stryker's Road

Mr. Tierney stated that the gravel parking area at Stryker's Road needs fencing to prevent vehicles from going down the path and discussed with the Commissioners which kind of fencing would be best. Mr. Davis made a motion to have bollards and a wooden split rail fencing installed. and Mr. Detrick added that a wooden rail fence on the waste weir so people don't fall off provided that there are no SHPO issues also be placed at the site. Mr. Fineran seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Plane 9

Mr. Tierney stated that there was vandalism to the turbine pit and that the incident was reported to the Greenwich Township Police Department. A metal grate will be inserted to prevent people from throwing debris into the pit. He stated that NJYC will mulch the sloped area behind the garage as soon as they can accommodate, but that they are a little behind schedule due to low membership.

White Lake

Mr. Tierney stated that there was vandalism at the site due to a vehicle that drove through the gate at the Primrose Path entrance and also through the fence at the main entrance. In addition, the Port O' John was tipped over. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Schaberg from the Nature Conservancy reported the incidents to the New Jersey State Police and promptly made repairs.

Mr. Tierney stated that signs for Bread Lock Park and White Lake were received and that Tom Bartha Excavating will take out old sign at Bread Lock Park and NJYC will install a new sign. Mr. Detrick made a motion for the County to order more signs, one each for Bread Lock Park and for White Lake (the single post signs which the Board reviewed at previous meeting). Mr. Tobaygo seconded the motion. Motion carries.

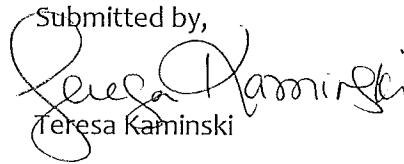
Mr. Detrick stated that Highlands can put in the sign at Bread Lock Park if the Youth Corps is unavailable

Mr. Tierney and the Commissioners talked about the need for more maintenance of the open space purchases and Mr. Tierney suggested a nonprofit conservation corps might be formed to help the county with maintenance. He will setup a meeting with interested parties to discuss this further. The Commissioners discussed the Warren Highlands Trail RR Crossing at Patriot's Path logos and the color of the caps on the posts as it cross the road.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Submitted by,  
  
Teresa Kaminski