

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**September 10, 2019
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:09 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The August 13, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- The fall bus tour will be held October 26th; details to follow soon.
- There has been a stall in work at Plane 9 - Mr. Detrick spoke to Dave Dech in Planning, who will try to expedite some of the projects.
- Museum display is underway for the organ and piano industry.
- On Sunday, Plane 9 had approximately 40 visitors and Bread Lock had around 30.
- Foodshed Alliance had an open house at Bread Lock that was well-attended.
- Greenway brochure is being updated and reprinted.
- Bilby Road Bridge Project - Ms. Roy found a much less expensive and easier-to-install aluminum bridge option in the \$20-30,000 range that can still be packed in. The DEP permit shouldn't need to be amended since it is less-extensive. An on-site meeting will be scheduled with the superintendent to determine if an access agreement is required.
- WCPF Volunteer Workday - This Saturday at 9 am will be a volunteer work day at Florence Kuipers. Bring loppers or equipment for trimming and clearing. Mr. Detrick will also bring some shovels for the crew to work on correcting a drainage issue with diversion ditches.
- Boy Scout Troop 56 - The troop and their parents had a productive work day at Bread Lock Park to help obtain some of their scout badges. They made ten picnic tables, painted fences at Strykers Road, and cleared some trails.
- Stryker's Road Crossing Under Route 22 - Mr. Helbing inquired about the Stryker's Road crossing. Trout Unlimited inquired with the state regarding the crossing under Route 22. The state relayed to them that the project is outside the scope of their permit (Mr. Tierney read TU's response). Trout Unlimited offered to revisit the subject once the project is complete.
- ParkFest 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th.

Trails

- Warren Highlands Trail - Mr. Helbing met with a neighbor to discuss the Warren Highlands Trail location near their property. He said it will be in place by mid-October.

The SCA crew will be coming in the end of September to do some trail work on State Park land will be an experienced group of crew leaders since most of the students have returned to school. Everything across Ragged Ridge will be completed.

- Girl Scout Project - Mackenzie, the Girl Scout doing her project on stone farm ruins on state property in Harmony Township will also be installing posts along the edge of the fields, per state regulations. It was suggested that some form of credit to the Girls Scouts be listed on the posts to deter vandals.
- NY/NJ Trails Conference - The Morris Canal Committee was once a member, but their membership lapsed. It was discussed at their last meeting that the Board of Recreation Commissioners become a member as more of an umbrella approach to cover all of the other groups under the Board. Mr. Detrick inquired what the advantages are to becoming a member. It is only \$50.00 and could be useful in obtaining chainsaw certification. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis for the Board to apply for membership to the NY/NJ Trail Conference. Motion carried. Mr. Detrick gave the paperwork to Mr. Tierney to complete.
- Municipal & Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee - Mr. Fineran noted that the MCCTFC met on Monday for applicant presentations and in October will be deciding on several projects, two being open space.
- Marble Hill - Mr. Hann reported that the blue trail has numerous downed trees. Mr. Tierney can ask the Youth Corps to take care of them. Mr. Helbing and Mr. Hann will meet at Marble Hill on Thursday at 4 pm, if anyone is interested in helping clear what they can with hand saws.
- Trail Maps/Brochures - Albert Krause from Planning updated the brochure maps and they were distributed for review. There was a discussion regarding the format of the maps and some suggestions were provided and will be forwarded to Mr. Krause. It was suggested that while these are being fine-tuned, that temporary updated paper copies of maps be placed in kiosks because they are an improvement from what currently exists.
- Pool/DiPaolo Property - Mr. Helbing said the owner of the Pool/DiPaolo property is willing to convey an easement. Mr. Tierney will look into it further.
- Mr. Detrick suggested scheduling a work day at Port Murray once the overgrowth dies off in late fall/early winter to come up with a site plan and determine and address potential dangers, as it is an undeveloped resource with multiple areas for interpretation. The same should eventually be done for Port Colden.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Session

Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to enter Executive Session at 6:14 pm to discuss the HMUA property. Motion carried.

Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to exit Executive Session at 6:20 pm. Motion carried.

Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to decline the counter-offer HMUA requested of \$135,000 and reaffirm the existing offer of \$68,500. Motion carried.

Benbrook II - Mr. Tierney distributed a Project Reference Map of the Benbrook II property and inquired if the Board was interested in pursuing this property adjacent to the existing Benbrook property, both along the Paulinskill River with access from Primrose Road. The proposed lot will be subdivided, so the county would acquire approximately 20-25 acres. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to support the acquisition of the Benbrook II property and proceed with appraisals. Motion carried.

Paulina Dam - Mr. Helbing said the dam is in major disrepair. Mr. Tierney said it was an MCCTFC applicant that was awarded funding, but the funds were never utilized and ended up being returned to the County.

True Property - The property is located near Furnace Lake and was preserved through the Highlands program. The appraisals were far apart, and the landowner rejected the initial offer that was closer to the lower appraisal. Mr. True recently reached out and asked if the county was still interested. Mr. Tierney inquired if the Board was still interested in the property; it is at the lower price. It was suggested that the PAR and survey be completed sooner than later, as there may be issues with slag piles and mine pits.

Administrator's Report

Singley - Survey was received and is being reviewed. Closing hopefully later this year.

Cacciapaglia - Meeting scheduled this Friday with landowner and both attorneys.

Port Colden - The forester will look at the trees when he returns from vacation later this month.

Farmland Preservation Easements - Easements are still under negotiation with the landowners (Noel, Stull, Pierra, Saqa). At the very least, they won't be preserved over with the farmland easement. In addition, fee value was offered to the landowners for the easement.

Carfaro - State is proceeding with acquisition; there have been issues with the town releasing some easements on the property.

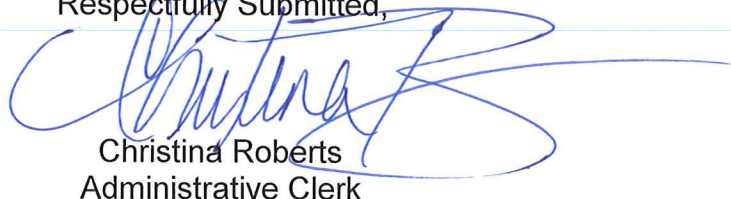
Albulescu - The access agreement was sent to the landowner's attorney for review and signature. Once returned, Mr. Tierney will proceed with the environmental investigation.

Mr. Helbing received a phone call from Jason Menegus from the CADB regarding a joint meeting between CADB and BORC. Mr. Tierney suggested a liaison can be determined if the subject is brought up at the CADB meeting next week.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Detrick to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Roberts', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk