

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**September 12, 2017
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Detrick opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Halmi, David Detrick, Raymond Tobaygo, Charles Fineran, William Hann

Members Absent: Michael Helbing, Matthew Davis

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, Bob Canace, Courtney Gabriel, James Watling

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The August 15, 2017 were tabled due to the lack of a majority of members in attendance from that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

White Lake Topics - Bob Canace, Ridge & Valley Conservancy

- Eurasian Water Milfoil Treatment - An EPA-approved aquatic herbicide will be used to treat the lake. Application should only take a half day, in which lake will be closed during that time. The treatment should take effect within approximately six weeks and will need to be reapplied annually. RVC will let us know the date they are treating so it can be posted online. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the application of the Milfoil treatment. Motion carried.
- Dock installation status - Mr. Watling has been working on clearing the phragmites near the future dock location. RVC is in the process of applying for the DEP GP19 permit for disturbance of wetland. The Mayor from Hardwick Township offered \$5,000 towards the purchase of the dock.
- Definition of "Boat/Watercraft" – RVC has had issues with people using inner tubes or inflatable pool rafts on White Lake because the rules didn't expressly prohibit them. The revised definition should eliminate any questionable watercraft from being used on the lake.
- Get Hooked on Fishing, Not On Drugs Program - Mr. Watling gave an overview of the program that works with school-aged children between ages 7-16 to avoid tobacco, drugs, and alcohol by providing alternative activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and environmental resources, and developing positive life skills. All supplies and gear are provided by the NJ DEP and participating kids will get to keep them at the end of the program. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to support the "Get Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program to be held at White Lake and would like Mr. Watling to update the Board when he finds out more information. Motion carried.
- Picnic Tables - The Highlands Project will make a bench for use at White Lake that can be picked up by RVC.
- Baptisms at White Lake - According to Park Rules, there is no wading, so baptisms will not be permitted. Mr. Tierney will get the opinion of special counsel on this subject.
- Snowplowing - When bidder is awarded contract for snowplowing, provide them with Mr. Canace's phone number so they can get his approval prior to plowing.

- Hunting policy - Mr. Canace provided a map that included a 450' buffer around trails and structures for shotgun hunting. Bow hunting only requires a 150' buffer. Mr. Canace suggested marking several areas off-limits to hunting and restricting hunting to white tail deer only. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to ban hunting at White Lake completely. Mr. Canace recommended making any changes gradually so there isn't as much push back, such as restricting certain areas or only allowing bow hunting on the property.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Detrick requested a vote. All in favor of banning hunting completely: Mr. Hann. All opposed: Mr. Halmi, Mr. Tobaygo, Mr. Fineran. Motion overturned.

Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to eliminate shotgun hunting and allow only bow hunting (which will expand the hunting area due to a smaller buffer area), and marking out the restricted areas. Motion carried.

Species Permitted - Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to only permit hunting of white tail deer at White Lake. Motion carried.

Baiting - Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to prohibit baiting. Motion carried.

- EcoTeam at White Lake - Tabled for now; may revisit in future.
- New Kayaks & Kayak Cage - Due to the overwhelming popularity of the kayaking events at White Lake, RVC would like to apply for a grant or purchase eight more kayaks and a small, secure kayak cage to store six to eight of them down by the lake, so they don't have to make as many trips with the kayak trailers for kayaking events. RVC would like to get tandem kayaks this time, so parents can take their children or couples could go together. If approved, RVC would like to include the site for the kayak cage in the GP19 survey that is being done for the installation of the dock. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve eight kayaks and a small kayak cage near the waterfront. Motion carried.
- Mohican Farm Property - The Mohican Farm Associates property is approximately 342 acres with a large lake (that includes a Category One dam) and several small ponds. RVC would like to partner with the County, among several other interested investors, to acquire the property. The property is for sale for \$2.5 million and the dam would require approximately \$2 million in repairs to bring it up to code. The Mohican Outdoor Center is within hiking distance and a ridge on the Appalachian Trail can be seen from the property. It is also within the Bobcat Ridge area being preserved. Hunting and fishing would be available on-site. The Board expressed their interest and concerns with the property, primarily - how much will the county have to contribute, can negotiations include that the current landowner make all dam repairs prior to selling, and what will the yearly management costs be (approximately)? Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve appraisals on the Mohican Farm Associates property to find out the property value before proceeding. Motion carried.

Other New Business

- 4H Club Interest in Archery Event & Community Service - The Board is amenable to the archery event. Locations and safety measures will need to be determined.
- Permit Request - OK4WD Annual Truckfest Event Sunday, October 15th - OK4WD is also requesting use of the barn for the musicians. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve OK4WD's used of the Bread Lock Park Barn for their event. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

- Tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

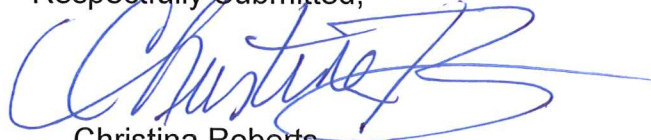
Acquisition Updates:

- Singley - Mr. Tierney met with the executor and they are interested in selling the entire property which includes 92 acres in Franklin Township between Halfway House Road and Millbrook Road. It appears that all of the previous issues with the property have been resolved. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve appraisals on the Singley property. Motion carried.
- Stull & Noel - Landowners will sell the portion of the property with the Morris Canal if the remainder of the farm is purchased. Mr. Detrick noted that this property was where they found exposed remnants of a canal boat in a swampy area of the canal. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve appraisals on the Stull/Noel property. Motion carried.
- Mount Rascal Preserve - Mr. Tierney met with the HMUA regarding a proposal they had. If the County purchases a piece of property owned by Barbieri Builders Association, in conjunction with The Natural Lands Trust for them to relocate their new water tower, the HMUA would convey the piece of property with the current water tower on it to the County and provide the County with trail rights on the Barbieri Builders property, in return. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to support continued negotiations and approve subsequent appraisals on the Barbieri Builders Assoc. property. Motion carried.
- Hill of Independence - Recently closed on trail easement.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk