

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**September 13, 2016
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Davis opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Halmi, David Detrick, Charles Fineran, William Hann, Matt Davis

Members Absent: Michael Helbing, Raymond Tobaygo

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, Bob Canace, Mary Martin

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The July 12, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran noted that under the Morris Canal Committee report, that Jim Lee, III was also at Waterloo for the Morris Canal presentation and display. Mr. Hann said he also attended and thought their display was very nice. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes, as revised. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- October 1st is the next bus tour and it is already full.
- In the Canal Society's latest newsletter, they focused on Warren County canal sites and trails.
- August 23rd - A demonstration of the QR Code project was done at Plane 9.
- A new kiosk was installed at the bottom of Plane 7 at Bowerstown Rd.
- Ms. Roy is working on SHPO authorization for some restoration work to be done on the tailrace and turbine chamber at Plane 9.

Trails

- Mr. Fineran was contacted by the superintendent of Worthington and Jenny Jump State Forests regarding a property at Exit 19 off County Route 517. The new owner wanted to install a gate and not allow people back there. The County intends to put the Warren Highlands Trail through that area, along the gravel path. It may be a legal issue; Mr. Tierney will update the Board at the next meeting.
- If anyone has issues with neighbors threatening hikers or workers on the Warren Highlands Trail on State Park land, they should notify the State Police.

PUBLIC AWARENESS - Mr. Tierney noted that the press release for the Parks Foundation bridge project was in the newspaper.

NEW BUSINESS

Highlands Council Grant Applications - A proposed Board of Recreation Commissioners resolution in support of the True and Caporin applications for Highlands Council grant funding was distributed for review. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the resolution, as presented. Motion carried.

Municipal & Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee Applications - The narrative and maps for the Alpha Borough and Tucci property open space applications for MCCTFC grant funding were distributed to the Board for their review and comment. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Detrick to support both applications. Motion carried with Mr. Fineran abstaining.

White Lake Management - The Lake has been very busy and the new lake trail is getting lots of use.

Program Fees - Mr. Canace suggested that Ridge & Valley Conservancy charge a nominal fee for programs, such as \$5 or \$10 per session when a paid professional provides instruction. The fees would then go back into the stewardship fund for White Lake to offset some costs. Programs such as yoga and paddle boarding are good examples. Anything done by volunteers will remain a free program. Fees are not currently charged for kayaking, but donations can be accepted. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to support charging a nominal fee for programs at White Lake, not to exceed \$10 per session. Motion carried.

Main Parking Area - A proposed new layout of the main parking lot was distributed. The Johnny on the Spot will be moved, the fence will be removed at the far end, and the lot extended twelve feet to accommodate more parking, with five spots designated for cars with trailers. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the plan for the main parking lot. Motion carried. It was also suggested that the barn parking lot be expanded for overflow parking. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the plan for expansion of the barn parking lot for overflow parking. Motion carried.

Horseback Riding - A few horseback riders are not following the signs to stay out of sensitive areas near the lake. Mr. Canace stated that there are new acquisitions that would lend themselves to horseback riding in the future, along with ideal areas for horse trailers to park. Mr. Canace will provide a proposed equine trail system at White Lake for the Board to review.

Spring Valley Road Parking Area - The neighbor installed two large boulders at the base of the entrance to the parking area. The boulders may not be visible to a motorist until they pull in and would then have to back up onto Spring Valley Road. Mr. Canace developed a safer parking plan with more parking spots for that area. Mr. Canace will forward his plan to Ms. Roy to see if it would meet parking area requirements and what steps need to be done.

Violation of Park Rules & Enforcement - If someone violates park rules, they are asked to stop or leave. If they continue, it is then considered trespassing and state police should be notified. Mr. Davis suggested that cards with identification and contact information be made for land stewards at White Lake serve as a warning and assist with enforcement of park rules.

Hunting - Hunters have been walking through meadows at White Lake and damaging the Metalmark butterfly food source and habitat. As with the equine trails, there are several new acquisitions underway that would be ideal for hunting. Instead of making any changes this season, Mr. Detrick suggested we wait until we close on the new properties to provide hunters with alternative areas to hunt in, away from sensitive habitats, bobcat dens, or high traffic walking/hiking areas. The types of hunting allowed in County Parkland will also be clarified. Mr. Canace will provide a map of suggested hunting areas at White Lake for the Board to review.

Bridge - Mr. Canace told Mr. Detrick that they need another 18' wooden bridge to be installed for the stream crossing near the Marlworks. The Highlands Project can work on the bridge over the winter and the installation can be another Parks Foundation project in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Geocaching - The State's and Morris County's policy were mailed out with the last set of minutes for review. Both policies will be re-sent to Board members for discussion at the October meeting.

Foodshed Alliance Farm Incubator Program - Bread Lock Park may be an ideal location for the farm incubator program, but it is still in its early stages of the concept. Mr. Tierney will update the Board as it progresses.

Administrator's Report

Cacciapaglia - The two Cacciapaglia lots are not contiguous to existing parkland, but if Benbrook and Zander are also acquired, they would provide a connection to existing properties and a combined total of 50 acres of river frontage along the Paulinskill. Mr. Tierney requested permission to have the Cacciapaglia properties appraised. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded Mr. Fineran to authorize the Department to proceed with appraisals on the Cacciapaglia properties. Motion carried.

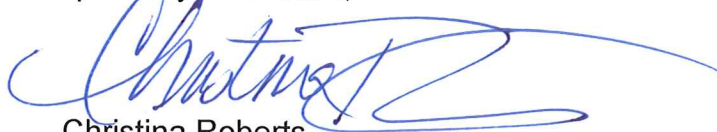
Hills of Independence - Under contract.

Terhune - The landowner is waiting for the forester to be completed, but he is still interested in selling.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on October 11, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk