

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**October 9, 2018
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Michael 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: David Detrick, Charles Fineran, Raymond Tobaygo, Matthew Davis, Michael Helbing, John Halmi, William Hann

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The September 11, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- SHPO application for Bilby Road trail was approved. The last step is Land Management Review. The trail grant was only for the cost of the bridge. The county applied to NJTPA for a grant to put gravel down along the towpath, but there hasn't been any response to the application. Parks Foundation has been doing a lot of work in that area to keep trails clear.
- Saturday, October 13th - Parks Foundation volunteer work day to stain fence and do some trimming.
- Canal walk/hike scheduled for October 27th in the Phillipsburg area.

Trails

- Mr. Helbing has been doing a lot of work on the Warren Highlands trail. The red and yellow trails at Marble Hill need a lot of chainsaw tree work. Mr. Tierney had asked the Youth Corps to clear the trees on those trails.
- Black bear hunting was banned on state property by the State of NJ this year and may impose on the counties to ban it as well.
- A post was knocked down on the Geiger Tract. Mr. Helbing noted that it doesn't look like anything is planted now, so it may be a good time to plan the trail around the farm field.
- Mr. Helbing noted that Panther Valley now has a paved trail through the woods, almost in line with the trail he planned. The only deviation would be to get to the overlook area. There is a large abandoned house that looks down on the trail, which is the only issue. It was suggested that portion be a short road walk, but the township should be consulted prior. A trail license or public access easement should be sought for the portion of the Warren Highlands trail that would utilize the new paved trail.
- Work with State Parks on the loop trail around Allamuchy Pond. A resolution from the Board in support of the trail will be composed and shared at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Gonzales Property - The Franklin Township Zoning Officer contacted the Department regarding a property in foreclosure that connects to the Fancy property. The property would provide access from Van Syckle Road, but does not contain the canal and the house on the property is in poor condition. After a brief discussion, the Board determined that they were not interested in the property. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to not proceed with acquisition of the Gonzales property. Motion carried.

Port Murray Preserve & Mansfield Police - Special Counsel was working with Mansfield Township and Police to determine jurisdiction for Port Murray Preserve and if an ordinance needed to be passed in order for the police to make an arrest at the site, if needed. Mr. Tierney will follow up with Ms. Campbell.

Port Murray Trail Map - The proposed new trail map was distributed for review. Mr. Helbing suggested "end of public access" at the end of the towpath (Hart's Lane) be posted and noted on the trail map and also mark where the trail leaves the towpath, down the steps. The portion of the trail that goes down the stairs through the ravine is really overgrown and currently closed until it can be cleared and maintained regularly again. A "trail under development" sign will be posted and the trail on the map will be shown with a dotted line. Add to the rules: "Access off of Hoffman Road only". Change map to topographic so it doesn't show the turbine. An "end of public access" sign by the railroad bridge and a warning sign at the base of the turbine keep people away from the turbine chamber will also be posted. Parking area will be delineated more clearly on the map. Parks Foundation logo to be included on map.

Mr. Detrick suggested that once trails are finalized, they should be professionally printed on something nicer than just paper for the kiosks.

OLD BUSINESS

Plane 9/Port Warren RFP for Planting - The Request for Proposals was issued using the suggestions from Wild Ridge Plants, but the proposal received was over \$18,000. A revised Request for Proposals was issued for installation of Hemlocks with an alternate estimate for arborvitae.

Permit Request - Boy Scout Troop 56 inquired about a weekend camping trip at Bread Lock Park. They have been having this activity at the park for 5 years and have always been courteous and responsible. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the permit application from Troop 56. Motion carried.

White Lake Barn - A car crashed into the White Lake barn over the weekend. RVC has temporarily boarded the barn up with plywood until repairs can be made. Some masonry work will need to be done, along with exterior repairs, the electrical panel will need to be replaced, and replacement of a portion of the fence that was destroyed. The police report has not been received yet.

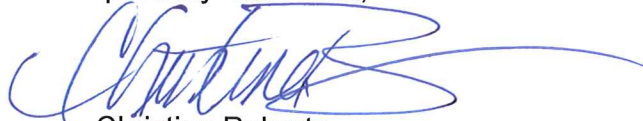
Bread Lock Park Barn - Mr. Tierney is working with Mr. Lazorisak, Deputy County Administrator and Director of Public Works on getting the siding project done on the barn using the plans by Eclectic Architecture. Mr. Lazorisak will assist with putting the siding project out to bid to get it done correctly and affordably.

Cultural & Heritage Commission - At the next Freeholder meeting, the Cultural and Heritage Commission is being dissolved and its functions are being transferred to the Department of Land Preservation. Substantial repairs are needed on Shippen Manor and it will likely come from the open space trust fund. The Department will be working more closely with Buildings and Grounds to hopefully fill some maintenance gaps. There is an alternate position on the Board for someone from Cultural & Heritage Commission, so it may be advantageous to eventually fill that vacancy.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk