

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**October 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Corey Tierney, Elizabeth Roy, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The September 8, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes as presented, with Mr. Detrick abstaining. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Port Colden – Fence built around the edge near where the trolley was, grate installed, and solar panel with a battery installed to illuminate inside the chamber. The light will have a timer switch in case people forget to turn it off. Beginning to work on preliminary signage for the site (a project of the Canal Committee). A site map along with smaller panels (similar to the StoryWalk) to interpret aspects of the site.
- The Eagle Scout exercise trail project is coming along nicely.
- The volunteers are back in the workshop again every Saturday.
- Mr. Dobbins reached out to the property owner of the Port Colden store to get permission for signage to be installed at the site.
- Adopt-a-Trail Program – OK4WD will be maintaining a portion of the trail at Bread Lock Park. The Cohen's have also been maintaining a section of the Morris Canal Trail for years. Mr. Tierney said he has templates from other counties and can prepare an Adopt-a-Trail agreement if the Board is amenable to the program. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to proceed with an Adopt-a-Trail agreement and sign. Motion carried.
- Geocaching – Mr. Helbing noted that the State approved the Girl Scout historical geocaching project, so she will be submitting a proposal to the County for approval.
- Bilby Road Bridge – The Freeholders approved the donation of the bridge kit to the state, so it will be assembled on-site by volunteers. Ms. Roy will ask the Bridge Department what advice they can provide regarding the assembly since they are unable to assist. The bridge will need to be primed with an aluminum-specific primer and it will then hold regular spray paint. The manufacturer provided an assembly video that will be shared with the group for reference.

Trail Committee

- Marble Hill - Trash still being dumped at the site. Mr. Helbing noted that there was a camera that was installed in the parking lot that has since been removed. Mr. Tierney said the camera was property of Land Preservation but without sufficient cell service in the area, the battery was draining down too quickly so it was removed.
- Warren Highlands Trail Markers – Mr. Helbing said he will be installing more teal Warren Highlands directional trail markers as needed made from repurposed fence posts.

- Office Field Day – Mr. Tierney, Ms. Roy, and Mr. & Mrs. Roberts cleared and marked the yellow trail at Marble Hill a week and a half ago. The rest of the trails at Marble Hill still need to be addressed. Mr. Tierney asked if the NJ Youth Corps could get out to clear the red trail, as it appeared moderately overgrown. Mr. Hann will try to check out the red trail this week. The washout area behind the high school is getting expansive. Mr. Davis said the old Port Colden platforms may be able to be repurposed as bridges for the washout area.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator's Report

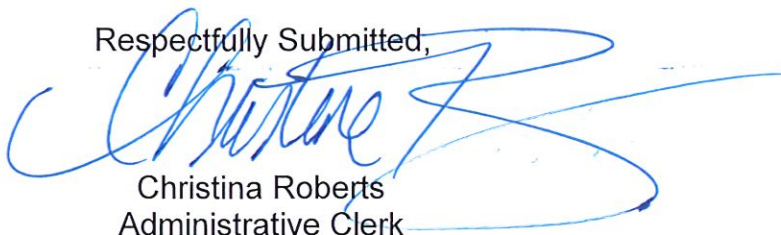
- Dias - Mr. Tierney said that Dias property on Lock Street is for sale. Property owner is asking \$175,000 and contains a residence. This property would provide a contiguous greenway from Lock Street Park to Route 22. The property contains a portion of the original inclined plane. The property contains an old oil tank that will be removed prior to acquisition. The lot can also be subdivided, and the house resold separately. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to proceed with the acquisition of the Dias property with the condition that the oil tank be removed. Motion carried.
- Janecko – Mr. Tierney and Ms. Roy met with the property owners and walked the property, but it was heavily overgrown so he would like to look at it again in late fall. The property would be an open space acquisition. There are a lot of items on the property that would need to be cleaned up and owners would like to retain the well on the property for agricultural purposes. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to authorize appraisals and negotiate the acquisition with property owners. Motion carried.
- Nicholson – Appraisal reports due this week.
- Benbrook II - PAR was received; there was nothing alarming in the report.
- HMUA – They need to do some investigation of the one-acre exception area; Mr. Tierney spoke with counsel so they are drafting a temporary access agreement to allow the HMUA into that area. The purchase agreement has become slightly more complicated. HMUA needs to bond to construct the new tower; still in attorney review.
- Noel – Draft survey for Noel farm was received; trail easement needs to be added.
- Pierra and Pear Tree – Looking to close by year-end.
- Carfaro – Mr. Hann inquired about the release of easements. If acquired by the state, the county would release the county easements. There are also municipal easements that the town will not release; the mayor would rather see the property as farmland versus open space.

Delaware Water Gap Fencing – Mr. Helbing attended a meeting regarding the proposed rock wall fence. Freeholder Director Richard Gardner and Freeholder Deputy Director James Kern both spoke regarding their opposition of the fence at the meeting. There are no points of egress built into the fencing in the event of an emergency.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020 via WebEx.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk