

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**October 14, 2014
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Davis opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Matthew Davis, David Detrick, John Halmi, Raymond Tobaygo, William Hann

Absent: Michael Helbing, Charles Fineran

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Cortis

MINUTES: The September 9, 2014 were reviewed. Mr. Detrick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Tierney said that the Department received a letter from Planning Board to Mr. Helbing regarding updates to the 2008 Open Space Plan.

Barb Merritt asked for permission to park her car at Bread Lock Park from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. so she could take Warren County Transportation to work at the Special Services School District. Mr. Hann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve her request until the end of the school year. Motion carried.

OK Auto 4WD and Tire submitted an application to use Bread Lock Park for parking for their annual truck show on October 19th. Mr. Halmi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve their request. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Mr. Detrick said that the new Bread Lock park sign is installed and looks great.
- The bus tour was well-attended. A professional photographer was hired by NJTPA to document parts of the trip.
- Another bus trip is schedule for October 24th.
- Since July, they have seen over 300 visitors.
- The Canal Committee is looking into updating the Morris Canal road signs.
- Mr. Davis will be scheduling some hiking trips in the spring; they may too difficult to arrange this fall.

Trails

- Mr. Hann has been studying the Warren Trail maps in detail and compared them to property owners. He suggested that the Board of Recreation Commissioners review and endorse the Plan, including alternate routes from the Warren Highlands Trail, and all of their spurs (Jenny Jump, Hoff-Vanatta, and Lehigh-Hudson). They were not originally part of the Master Plan and should become part of the updated Master Plan.

- Mr. Hann would like to see a slideshow done for the Lehigh-Hudson spur, like the Warren Highlands slideshow that Mr. Davis did. The Board discussed how best to involve the public.
- Mr. Tierney suggested that the Board might hold a presentation at key locations along the trail like Merrill Creek.
- Mr. Hann suggested that the Board review the proposed Plan and make any recommendations at the November meeting to be forwarded to the Planning Department.
- The Riverfront Trail in Phillipsburg was discussed. Mr. Hann indicated that Michael Perucci stated to the Phillipsburg Town Council that he would like to dedicate space for a trail, adjacent to the canal, up to Walters Park.
- Mr. Hann suggested that a separate meeting be held just for the trail plan after the next Board of Recreation meeting.
- Mr. Tierney said that the Board needs to make a distinction between local trails and county trails and identify properties the County would like to acquire versus municipal projects they just want to endorse, so that their priorities are clear.
- Mr. Tierney noted that the Planning Department is looking at upgrading the County's ARC GIS mapping software, aspects of which will be posted online. It will be much more interactive and we will be able to map out trails and make them available to the public online.

Public Awareness

- A meeting was held at Rutherford Hall to start planning for the 2015 Preservation Day event. Mr. Tierney stated that it is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Rutherford Hall in Allamuchy Township. State Parks will co-sponsor the event. Email the Department with any suggestions.

OLD BUSINESS

ACQUISITION UPDATES

Lock Street Associates (behind Phillipsburg Mall) - Received permission from the Freeholders to appraise this property.

Mann/Barringer, Lopatcong Twp. - We will be closing on this property soon. Just trying to schedule a date.

O'Dowd, Franklin & Greenwich Twp.

Green Acres issued CMV on this property. Mr. Tierney is waiting for the SADC to issue CMV on the farmland preservation portions. He will then discuss this with the CADB before an offer is made.

North Central Realco, Franklin Twp. & Greenwich Twp.

Appraisals were done, but we are awaiting for Green Acres to certify the appraisals. If the proposed solar facility is not viable, the county will make the property owners an offer to buy the property outright. If the solar facility moves forward, the developer has agreed to grant the county a conservation and trail easement.

Carl Crouse, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the landowners are not interested in having a trail easement for the Morris Canal property on their farmland which is currently in application for farmland preservation. Mr. Tierney is hoping to get the owners to agree to the trail easement now and it will be recorded in the deed, but wouldn't take effect until property is sold.

White/Woo, Washington Twp.

Property owners agreed to a verbal offer. Liz Roy from Planning is working with the owners on a professional vegetative buffer plan. A wooden privacy fence will most likely be installed where the vegetative buffer would interfere with the septic system.

Handlos, Mansfield Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the property is being surveyed and the environmental assessment came back clean. There was question as to who owns a small portion at the bottom of property. An old deed from the 80s showed that portion belonging to the railroad.

Reed, Mansfield Twp.

There was question as to who owns the bridge on the property. Mr. Tierney found nothing to indicate that this is county-owned, as the landowner suggested. He said that the county would consider entering into a joint agreement for maintenance of the bridge.

Pool, Mansfield Twp.

This property has a vacant home and the county freeholders have indicated in the past that they would like to avoid buying more properties with structures. Mr. Tierney spoke with Mr. Lavery about whether Mansfield Township might be interested in using COAH funds to acquire the house; the township does not appear interested in such a project at this time.

Independence Land Holdings, Independence Twp.

Mr. Tierney said that the contract was signed by the landowners and is being reviewed by Green Acres. He met with Larry Fink from Green Acres and Martin Rapp from the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust on site in order to discuss future access and trail connections. There are several existing trails and Mr. Rapp was very cooperative.

The Hills at Independence, Independence Twp.

Mr. Tierney sent a letter to the Homeowners Association to see if they would be interested in selling the Department a trail easement and if they had any objection with a trail head near the playground on the property. They have not yet responded.

Jonestown Road, Oxford Twp.

Mr. Tierney stated that the appraisal report is being revised based on some environmental issues with the property.

Terhune, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney made a verbal offer to the property owner, but is waiting for a response.

Svenningsen, Hardwick Twp.

The property owners rejected the offer for being too low and for concerns about privacy. Mr. Tierney will ask Allen Barlow from The Nature Conservancy to follow up with the property owners to see if there may be some other options to establish a trail connection.

MAINTENANCE

Stryker's Road

The Department will issue an RFP to install a fence.

Plane 9

Ms. Roy from Planning is working with a professional to install a vegetative buffer plan. The Youth Corps will be mulching soon and once the leases are renewed, perimeter trails will be established around the fields. Mr. Tierney would like to order a new sign for Plane 9 next year.

Brickyard - The Youth Corp cleared Harts Lane going east, but the Hoffman Road area hasn't been cleared. The Nature Conservancy has agreed to help with trails and ecological restoration for the sand pit, but they don't want to start until the area has been secured with gates.

White Lake

The overgrowth of vegetation is being cleared surrounding the Shandor bench. The new sign will be installed soon, just like the one at Bread Lock Park.

Florence Kuipers

The contractor who is using the park as a temporary storage area for their equipment, should be cleared out by the end of the month. Once cleared, the Department of Public Works will begin working on the parking area. New signs will be installed.

Bilby Road

The preliminary work is done by the surveyor. The state has agreed to be a co-applicant.

Bread Lock Park

Mr. Tierney received the plans from the architect for the barn stabilization. Mr. Tierney also authorized the new roof on the museum shop which will be done before winter.

Shippen Manor

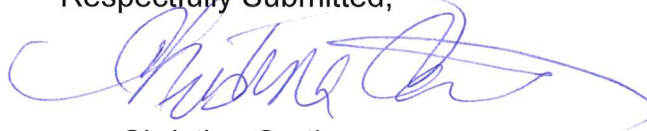
Mr. Tierney received plans from the architect to construct a roof on the Engine House at Shippen Manor. He is working with Andy Drysdale, Chris Pessolano, and the architect to complete this project.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on November 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hann. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Cortis
Administrative Clerk