

Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2013

Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, New Jersey 07863

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

Members Absent: None

Staff: Corey Tierney and Sue Beall

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Helbing . This meeting was held at the office of the Department of Land Preservation, 500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford, New Jersey.

The Introductory Statement and roll call were read into the record.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2013, were approved on a motion by Mr. Fineran, second by Mr. Tobaygo. Mr. Halmi abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None this evening.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

♦ Morris Canal Committee – Mr. Detrick received a copy of a proposal from Phillipsburg for a trail along the river. The proposed plan will set up a steering committee and a representative will be requested from the BORC. Phillipsburg has applied for a National Park Service Grant to aid in using the old railroad bridge to connect the proposed trail to Easton. Michael Perrucci is going back to the Planning Board in Phillipsburg with revisions on his townhouse project along the river and canal. Town Engineer, Stan Shrek, is on board with the Canal Committee and their recommendations regarding the proposed development. Last Sunday was the best day ever at Break Lock Park. There were more visitors in attendance on one day than ever before. All of the projects previously reported on are progressing. The pavilion over the canal boat, however, has been completed.

At this point Mr. Tierney was asked a question regarding a maintenance project and the subject of all maintenance was handled. A work order form requesting tree cutting at Plane 10 has been received. RFP's were sent out yesterday to determine the cost of that job. Mr. Tierney met with Ms. Roy, the County Engineer and the Town Engineer at Stryker's Road regarding a gravel parking area. A neighbor has complained that visitors are parking on his property. A work order for mulching and grading at the top of Plane 9 has been received along with the request for an excavator. Mr. Tierney is researching a contractor for the excavation. The Planning Department is organizing the installation of split rail fencing and a bollard at the entrance to the towpath on Stryker's Road. Mr. Detrick stated that he felt fencing and bollards should also be placed at the entrance to the weir across the street as a safety measure to keep visitors from dropping off the edge. The Youth Corps is to begin clearing at Hoffman Road as well as the Terra Cotta Road. Mr. Tierney also met at Florence Kuipers Memorial Park with Mim Dunne and Bob Olson of Fish and Wildlife. Some trees will be dropped and the area will be mapped with the help of the Planning Department. The Youth Corps will be clearing the area at Bilby Road back to the area of the bridge. Volunteers will be needed in this area for additional clearing. At White Lake new kiosks have been installed and some of the old ones are being repaired.

♦ Trails – Mr. Helbing invited Steve Ellis to attend this meeting, but he was unable to get here. Mr. Helbing wants to discuss continuing trails across Lake Hopatcong property. Mr. Helbing took Jennie Felton from States Parks to hike at Marble Hill and turned in a plan to complete the last 300 feet to the State property. Ms. Felton anticipates no problems. Posting is to begin soon on the State property as far as Belvidere Road. The easement on the Geiger property has been approved by the Farmers' Fair Association. Mr. Helbing wants to start working with Washington Township on their trails in township parks. There is nothing new on Terhune. Velencei is on the BCF agenda for tomorrow night. There are several open mines on the property and Mr. Lavery advises that an environmental assessment should be conducted now.

Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hann, to authorize Mr. Tierney to proceed with ordering an environmental assessment on the Velencei property. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Mr. Helbing mentioned that there is a possibility of a showing of "Driving New Jersey" in January featuring Warren County.

OLD BUSINESS:

♦ Acquisition and Status of Projects – Route 57 Partners is still under contract, however there are survey issues. There is the option to close without Green Acres reimbursement since they are insisting on another survey which may cost as much as \$14,000. Wolf-Kanach rejected the first offer. A second offer has been made, but nothing has been heard regarding that. On the Handlos property, the BCF does not favor buying the lot with the house. An offer has been made on the two vacant lots. Mr. Lavery is still working on Pool. Green Acres has certified the appraisals on Independence Land Holdings. Green Acres is taking the lead on an offer. The County will end up footing most of the cost, but is eligible for a grant. The County would own the canal portion plus about 45 acres. The Freise property is moving forward. An offer was made on Read, however there has been no response. Mann is on the agenda for the BCF meeting tomorrow for an easement. Mr. Detrick brought up the Freise property and stated that there are some features

that he feels should be preserved such as the swimming pool made in the canal. Also there are two properties to the east which the acquisition of would continue County land out to Brass Castle Road. There is a new owner of the Foley property east of Kayhart Lane with a long right of way for the canal. Mr. Tierney will reach out again to the new owner. Mr. Tierney, Mr. Helbing and Mr. Davis attended a Fish & Wildlife presentation at Duke Farms on Deer Management. Mr. Tierney has a draft of rules for management and will incorporate some of those ideas into the revision of the Rules Governing Conduct in Public, Historic and Passive Recreation Areas of the County of Warren.

Mr. Tierney is scheduled to meet with Chris Hellwig of the County Health Department in their planning of outdoor recreation for health.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fineran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo. Chairman Helbing adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan W. Beall