

WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179
Oxford, NJ 07863

November 12, 2019
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:11 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, Tom Lizzy

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The October 8, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Tobaygo to approve the minutes as presented with Mr. Detrick abstaining. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee/Warren Heritage Scenic Byway

- Ms. Roy said they she will be ordering the Bilby Road bridge very soon. The Bridge Department will be assisting with installation, but the installation of the bridge decking may be a good volunteer project. Once the bridge is ordered, it will be approximately 6 weeks until delivery. The decking material was discussed; pressure treated wood will hold up quite a while and is less expensive than Trex decking.
- There were two successful and well-received bus tours; the Pennsylvania Canal Society and the fall Morris Canal Greenway Tour.
- The Plane 9/Jim Lee canal animation video will be posted on YouTube in the next few weeks. The Canal Committee will set aside funds to do something similar for a lock if Mr. Lee is amenable. Ms. Roy is working with Mr. Charlton on having an inventory of video content and a plan going forward for the YouTube channel. Video tours of parks will help with ADA compliance.
- Scenic Byway - Two kiosks are being purchased by Washington Twp. DPW; the panel for Port Colden is ready and the one for the Rockport Train Wreck is still being completed.
- Mr. Fineran is working with Ivan Smith on locating/mapping and photographing local gristmills along the Scenic Byway and Musconetcong River.

Trails

- Marble Hill - a little more clearing needed yet.
- Harker's Hollow - Mr. Kosar will be installing Warren Highlands sign soon.
- Merrill Creek mowed water line clearing up to edge of road.
- The SCA finished their clearing project up to Ragged Ridge. Mr. Helbing has a meeting with Ms. Pasch from Van-Nest Hoff-Vannata Farmstead to scout out the trail marking posts.
- Mr. Helbing said on the top of Ragged Ridge, there are recesses in the rocks - he explained that this was one of the main smoke signal communication sites for the Lenape Indians. There is a similar recess on Point Mountain.
- Mr. Helbing will be scouting some trails from Brass Castle to Oxford Mountain. The trail needs to follow the narrow strip of land owned by the County.
- Warren Highlands Trail Meeting - 10 am on Thursday, November 21st at Merrill Creek Reservoir.

- Canal Mowing Equipment - Mr. Detrick inquired about the purchase or rental of equipment to mow portions of the canal. Mr. Tierney explained the need for the equipment in the 2020 budget request. One option may be to have the county purchase the equipment and hire a seasonal employee with funds from the open space trust, but to have it operated under the Road Department. If the purchase is not approved, another option may be to rent the equipment as needed and perhaps a Youth Corps employee could be trained to operate it.

NEW BUSINESS

Edward Ceglowski Volunteer Status - Mr. Ceglowski submitted a volunteer application in 2018 for volunteer work on trails at Florence Kuipers Park. Mr. Tierney explained that Mr. Ceglowski has admitted to using a chainsaw and an ATV in Florence Kuipers Park, even after being instructed not to by Mr. Tierney. Mr. Tierney provided a copy of a letter he sent to Mr. Ceglowski. Mr. Ceglowski has also been issued several citations by State Park Police for violations on the adjacent Rockport Wildlife Management property. Based on these events, Mr. Tierney recommended the Board rescind Mr. Ceglowski's volunteer status. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to rescind Mr. Ceglowski's volunteer status, with Mr. Fineran abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. Tierney suggested having volunteers submit applications annually and recommended incorporating an official policy in the Park Rules for volunteer applications with the option to deny or revoke an application. Mr. Tierney will also revisit the revised Park Rules and submit to the Freeholders for approval in 2020. The Board discussed whether volunteer applications should be completed annually or for another duration, such as a three-year time period, and if applicants should be issued a trail agreement that lists what volunteer activities they are permitted to do and on county properties. Mr. Tierney will consult County Counsel and Mr. Helbing will check with the state regarding their procedure.

Administrator's Report

Benbrook II - Out for appraisal.

True - Mr. Tierney inquired if Mr. Helbing and Mr. Davis still want to walk the property. Mr. Helbing looked at the property on NJ-GeoWeb and it didn't appear to have as many mine pits as he originally thought, but he would still like to walk the property.

Albulescu - Proceeding with environmental study.

Barbieri - nearing closing; seller working on title issues.

Singley - Additional environmental work being authorized. Some survey adjustments will be needed and title issues are being worked out.

Cacciapaglia - Should close before the end of the year.

Pool Property - Mr. Detrick inquired about trail easement on the property. Mr. Tierney has not heard from the landowners, even though they had a verbal agreement with Mr. Mayberry to clear the towpath. Mr. Helbing will ask Mr. Mayberry to speak with landowners and request they reach out to Mr. Tierney.

Noel/Stull - County offered to purchase a trail easement from Noel Estate. At the very least, the canal portion will be excepted out of the farmland preservation easement.

Pereira/Saga - Seemed amenable to selling trail easement; being appraised now.

Maintenance

Shippen Manor - Restoration work on the manor will be going out to bid.

Bread Lock Park Barn - Mr. Tierney would like to move forward with the Bread Lock Park Barn siding. Lumber and supplies can be purchased through Blue Ridge Lumber and work can be put out to bid and done by a general contractor. Mr. Tierney inquired if materials can be stored onsite and if it would get in the way of ParkFest activities. Mr. Detrick said lumber and supplies can be stacked against one of the far walls.

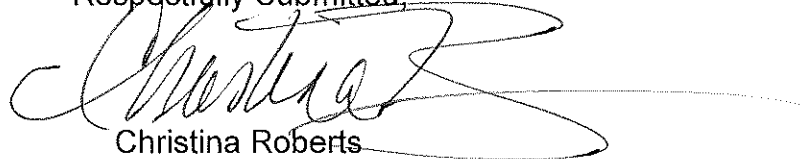
Mr. Helbing noted that Tom Lizzy, a retired Principal Ranger for Hunterdon County Parks was in attendance and may be interested in an alternate position on the Board or with the Park Foundation.

Lee Farm - Mr. Tierney spoke with Frank Pinto from Greener by Design. The County was supposed to convey their interest in the property years ago, but it was never done. Greenwich Township already has plans for the portion of property near the rescue squad for a community garden, so they weren't able to accommodate the request to use it for a parking area in a land swap. They were amenable to granting a trail easement or similar agreement for a trail head/connector trail leading to the canal trail, however. Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann for Mr. Tierney to proceed with conveying the County's interest in the Lee property with the stipulation that Greenwich Township grant a trail easement or similar agreement for a trail head/connector trail. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Roberts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk