

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**December 9, 2014
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Guests: Gregg Hudis

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Cortis

MINUTES: The November 18, 2014 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with Dave Detrick abstaining.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

The Morris Canal Working Group Meeting held on December 4th was well attended. The Mayor of Greenwich Township would like to meet with the Canal Committee and the County to discuss the use of the canal section through Greenwich (Stewart's Hunt).

There was a meeting at the Brickyard/Port Murray Preserve to discuss how that land will be utilized. A path across the property will be established, connect to Hart's Lane, and possibly the canal across the ravine, along with an alternative route along the old trolley line.

Mr. Helbing finished the connecting trail, but has to do a little more grading. It crosses the creek several times, but there are very easy step stones. Some areas will need further work in the future. He will also be marking the trail with the plastic Morris Canal trail markers from Hoffman Road to Harts Lane.

Trails

Shandor Property - Mr. Hann spoke to Ms. Shandor regarding the section of land behind the fairgrounds that they would like the trail to go through. She will have her son (Bob Shandor, Jr.) give Mr. Hann a call to speak to him further about this. If the land owners are willing to sell the property, the State is willing to purchase the property, since they own all of the land surrounding it. If we receive permission for the trail to go through the Shandor property, the next property to work on contacting is Harker's Hollow.

Oxford Township - Mr. Tierney met with the Mayor and Councilman. They are still interested in selling the Jonestown parcel, as revised. Mr. Tierney and Mr. Helbing will meet with them again to discuss future intentions for the property.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Mr. Hann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fineran to send a letter to the Phillipsburg Riverfront Heritage Trail Committee, in support and promotion of the trail plan. Motion carried. Mr. Helbing will send the letter of support as Board Chair and convey his interest in assisting in the labor and development of this plan.

NY/NJ Trails Conference - Mr. Detrick asked if the Board should try to become a member. Mr. Helbing said that they are over-extended now, but he feels that they will eventually contact us, as our trails become more developed.

OLD BUSINESS

ACQUISITION UPDATES

Mann/Barringer, Lopatcong Twp. - The closing was rescheduled again. To speed up the process, closing may be done through the mail.

Lock Street Associates, Lopatcong & Pohatcong Twps. - The appraisals are in and have been sent to Greens Acres for review. The values came back lower than the landowners were expecting.

Wolf Property - Dave Dech from Planning asked Mr. Tierney if he would meet with the landowners on site.

O'Dowd, Franklin & Greenwich Twp. - An offer was made. The landowners requested some additional information, which is being provided to them.

Rogers Farm - Appraisals were received and sent to Green Acres for CMV. Waiting to hear from landowners to see if the solar project is moving forward.

Carl Crouse, Washington Twp.

Landowners declined the initial offer. Mr. Tierney is reaching out to the landowners again. He is hoping to get them 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. Ms. Roy from Planning is still working with the owners on a professional vegetative buffer plan.

Handlos, Mansfield Twp.

Mr. Tierney said that the property is under contract, but the only hold-up is the small boot-shaped portion at the bottom of property (Lot 71) does not have clear title and may be omitted at closing if they can't determine who currently owns it.

Independence Land Holdings, Independence Twp. - Under contract with the state. Green Acres is moving forward with the survey and environmental assessment. Mr. Tierney is looking into applying for a William Penn Foundation grant to offset the county's financial obligation.

Terhune, Washington Twp.

Mr. Tierney made a verbal offer, but is still awaiting a response from the property owner. Eventually the appraisals will no longer reflect the current value and the property would have to be reappraised.

In the beginning of 2015, the Department will be sending outreach letters to landowners of properties of interest.

MAINTENANCE

Stryker's Road

The Department is working with Ms. Roy from the Planning Department to develop an RFP for installation of a fence and bollard installation. Mr. Tierney will also be meeting with the township to discuss the parking area so the Roads Division can begin working on it.

Geiger Trail - Mr. Helbing discussed the management of the trail and the need for a maintenance plan to keep it from becoming overgrown. Possibly have a crushed stone path to keep overgrowth down. Mr. Helbing inquired about possible grant funding to improve trails alongside roadways.

Plane 9 - The pothole in the driveway was repaired.

Bread Lock Park - A meeting is scheduled on December 17th to discuss rehabilitation plans for the Bread Lock Barn.

Bilby Road - There is no news; it is anticipated that the state will partner with the county on the acquisition.

BASF - The Trust for Public Land is working on a project to acquire the property.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE/RECOMMENDATIONS

At a previous meeting, it was recommended that the Highlands Trail spurs be added to the official Open Space plan.

Rail Trails - The State is not currently purchasing any rail trails until all of them are capped with crushed stone. Mr. Tierney said that for the purpose of the Open Space Plan, the Board can still support the concept of rail trails.

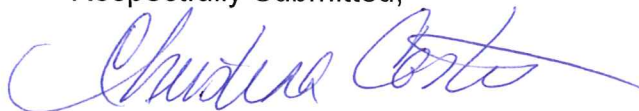
Mr. Hann said that the existing Open Space Plan defined areas of high priority and low priority for acquisition. This information was included before the County had the Warren Highlands Trail details; it was more so a general plan. He suggested that the Plan update include more specific details now, along with lots, blocks, and landowners. Mr. Helbing suggested that Mr. Tierney, along with several Board members, meet with Mr. Dech to review the trail maps and determine what details to put on the maps in the Plan update.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Cortis
Administrative Clerk