

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**December 11, 2018
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Helbing opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The November 13, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Detrick motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Mr. Helbing and Mr. Hann abstaining. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Jim Lee is working with a man from Canada who is developing a video on how the inclined canals operated. A sample short video should be available by spring.
- Ms. Roy is waiting to hear back from the recommended electricians regarding the electrical upgrades inside the chamber. The electrical engineer that designed the plans is willing to work as the project manager to make sure things are getting done according to plans.
- Mr. Fineran is sponsoring a canal boat silhouette at Waterloo Village. Fabrication will begin in the shop over the winter.
- There has been discussion regarding the extension of the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway into Phillipsburg and Allamuchy.
- Signage and canal trail markers have been removed at Port Murray Preserve. No Public Access sign still needs to be installed; Mr. Detrick offered to post it. There has recently been an issue with people hunting on county property, thinking it is part of privately owned land.
- New homes being built in neighboring development; access trail can be directed around field if the County doesn't have rights under the railroad underpass.

Trails

- Mr. Helbing and Brandi Chapman, the State Trail Coordinator visited all of the road crossings on the Warren Highlands Trail from Buttzville to Phillipsburg.
- Mike Dannemiller is writing a proposal to get a pedestrian crossing at Route 46 in Buttzville.
- Mr. Detrick inquired if any maintenance equipment is needed for any non-canal park trails. Mr. Helbing said that most of the Warren Highlands Trail is currently clear. Some trails have recently been reblazed and volunteers have been working on keeping them clear. The Lopatcong connector trail needs a lot of work, particularly with a chainsaw. The lower yellow trail that runs parallel to the road could use some hand trimming. There has been continued dumping in the Marble Hill parking area.

NEW BUSINESS

White Lake - Ridge & Valley Conservancy received the donation of a generator for the Wiseman House. They also received a check from Hardwick Township in the amount of \$5,000.00 towards the purchase of the dock. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to send acknowledgement/thank you letters to both donors. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

- Cacciapaglia - Contract back. Survey and environmental reports are also back; environmental areas of concern will be addressed over the winter so closing can take place in spring.
- Barbieri - Signed contract was returned and is on Freeholder agenda.
- Singley - Waiting for response from seller's attorney.
- Mohican Farm Associates - Landowner verbally agreed to offer. Discussions continuing with Freeholders regarding acquisition and County Counsel regarding dam liability.

Maintenance

Port Warren/Plane 9 - Vegetative privacy buffer was installed.

Shippen Manor - Youth Corps decorated Shippen Manor for Christmas.

Green Acres Signs - Youth Corps will be posting Green Acres signs as needed (some properties were missing the required signage). Each property should have Green Acres signs.

West Oxford Mountain - Parking should be looked into more closely and planned out prior to the establishment of trails. The Gessner property was looked into, but not pursued because Terhune wasn't owned by the county at that time. Another possibility is Brass Castle Road, which is County owned, so requirements would have to be met. Mr. Helbing said some of the Project Excel buildings are the old Bowers Foundry. Mr. Helbing suggested contacting the Board of Education to inquire about an agreement to utilize their parking area.

Mowing - Mr. Detrick asked if Public Works will be able to mow designated areas once a year during their off-season with their articulated mower. Mr. Tierney has to speak with Mr. Tate from Public Works.

Port Warren Sign - Mr. Detrick offered to install the signs; a two-post sign at the base of Plane 9 and a single post sign off the parking area at Strykers Road.

Marble Hill - Kiosk that was hit by a car needs to be reinstalled. A few posts will also need to be installed just outside the easement area to delineate that section of trail until it reaches the marked trees. The trail will need to be mowed more regularly if it isn't getting heavy enough use.

OLD BUSINESS

Pierra and Saqa - Mr. Hann inquired if the landowners were interested in selling the portion of the canal in fee simple instead of an easement. Mr. Tierney said they were not interested in selling outright unless they can preserve the rest of their property as farmland. Mr. Tierney said there is a separate lot that the County may be able to acquire in fee.

Unangst Farm - Mr. Helbing inquired about the property, which is in the process of farmland preservation. Mr. Tierney said the estate and tax issues have been resolved, so they should be able to close the farm early 2019. The landowners are not interested in selling the private lot with the rail-bank right of way.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk