

**WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

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

**December 13, 2016
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:08 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Michael Helbing, John Halmi, Charles Fineran, Matt Davis

Members Absent: Raymond Tobaygo, David Detrick, William Hann

Guests: Elizabeth Roy, Gregg Hudis

Staff: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts

MINUTES: The November 15, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi to approve the minutes, as presented with Matt Davis abstaining. Motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Morris Canal Committee

- Jakob Franke, a volunteer who has been instrumental in the clearing and maintenance of the Morris Canal Greenway Trail, recently passed away. He had recently received the highest volunteer award from NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Trails

- John Kosar, from Metrotrails, will be installing posts on the Warren Highlands Trail with Sacrete cement, at no cost to the County. Mr. Helbing suggested a letter be sent to thank him for his work and contributions.
- Mr. Helbing's next three Metrotrails hikes are in various sections of Warren County. He will forward the details to Ms. Roberts to have them posted on the Warren County Parks website.
- Proposed Marl Works Trail - Ridge and Valley Conservancy submitted a map of the proposed Marl Works Trail at White Lake. Mr. Davis motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the proposed trail as presented. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acquisition Updates

Crouse Farm - Mr. Tierney visited the property with the Highlands Council staff. Grant awards should be announced by March 2017.

Jonestown Road - Closing should take place as soon as the church access easement issue is resolved. This property will make the Oxford Mountain Natural Resource Area nearly 600 acres.

Terhune - Mr. Tierney visited the property and everything still looks acceptable. The signed purchase agreement has been received and is going on the January 11th Freeholder agenda for their signature.

Benbrook - The landowners think the appraisal value is too low. Mr. Tierney suggested that he contact non-profits in the area, like The Nature Conservancy or Ridge & Valley Conservancy to see if they are interested in partnering on the acquisition to supplement the County's funding. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis for Mr. Tierney to contact non-profit organizations to seek additional funding for this acquisition. Motion carried.

Cornell Kenyon - Expected to close in early January.

Maintenance

Hart's Lane - The contractor installed the gate and the neighbor seems pleased.

Port Murray - A neighbor called to request a sign be installed at the bridge so people don't park there. A sign has already been ordered and Mr. Tierney will have the Youth Corps to install it.

Bread Lock Park Barn and O'Dowd Morris Canal Greenway Trail - Contract awards for both projects are on the Freeholders agenda for December 14th.

Mount Rascal - If we have any nice days, the Youth Corps will try to complete the middle section of the trail since it will require a chainsaw. Mr. Tierney will work with Ms. Roy on getting the parking area on Old Allamuchy Road planned out.

Open Space Plan - The Plan is coming to completion. Once the draft has been received, Mr. Tierney will circulate it to Board members for review. Short and mid-term goals should also be discussed and determined.

Parks Foundation Memorial Benches - The Parks Foundation would like to sell memorial benches to help raise funds. The Board will need to help determine which parks (and locations with the park) would benefit from benches and set parameters.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Appalachian Trail Community Day Event - Saturday, April 22, 2017 in downtown Blairstown.

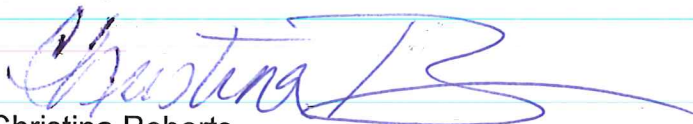
Preservation Day Event - Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Van Nest Hoff-Vannatta in Harmony Township.

Park Fest - Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Bread Lock Park.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk