

**WARREN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**  
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179  
Oxford, NJ 07863  
**January 10, 2023**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Reorganization Meeting:**

Mr. Tierney opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice

Mr. Tierney called for nominations for Chair. Mr. Hann nominated Mr. Helbing. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Mr. Tierney handed the meeting over to Mr. Helbing.

Mr. Helbing called for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Hann nominated Mr. Fineran. Mr. Halmi seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Helbing called for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Hann nominated Mr. Halmi for Secretary. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Michael Helbing, Charles Fineran, William Hann Jr., John Halmi

**Staff:** Corey Tierney, Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Kruegel

**MINUTES:** The November 1, 2022 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hann to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Tierney asked the board to confirm the meeting dates as continuing to be the second Tuesday of each month at 5 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Tierney reported that we have the Green Acres grant application coming up so he will be working on that.

Mr. Tierney also reported that there is funding for inclusive playgrounds through Green Acres and it is not competitive. It might be something to consider in the future with maintenance and staffing requirements.

A discussion was had on how to manage vandalism in the park areas.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Morris Canal Committee/Warren Heritage Scenic Byway**

Morris Canal –

Mr. Halmi thanked Ms. Roy for the promotion of the Bread Lock Park museum on Facebook as they had a good turnout.

Ms. Roy said the Morris Canal Committee are finalizing signs for Port Colden. Their goals this year are to do interpretative and wayfinding signage in Port Murray. They are looking to do something other than bus tours. They are also looking to update their QR codes on their tours.

Ms. Roy reported that the Lock 8 brown historic road signs, one for Lock 8 on Lock Street in Phillipsburg has been in bad shape for a long time. The sign department replaced them along with Mike Muckle and the Youth Corps. There is an interpretative panel that is going to be replaced in the ball field by the creek at Lock 8.

Mr. Tierney reported the progress of the Oxford Mountain trail being put in by Ms. Hehn and Mr. Lizzi with the Parks Foundation. They are taking precautions with the mines in the area. They are also inquiring with Gina Rosseland and John Metroke about historical interpretive signs along the trail.

#### Trail Committee:

Mr. Helbing reported some trees down along the trail at Bread Lock Park. Mr. Tierney said they would look into it.

Mr. Helbing replaced all the posts that were taken out along the Warren Highlands Trail that the Youth Corps had put in.

Mr. Helbing and Mr. Tierney have been in contact with Dave Dech regarding crosswalks at the bottom of Plane 9 along 519 between Stine and Lee.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tierney reported on the Carfaro Property. It is on the corner of Rockport Rd. and Hazen Rd. and is about 47.5 acres. Owners said they can include another 10-acre lot to the left of it. The county referred the owners to the state as it is surrounded by Rockport Wildlife Management area. The state ran into technical issues because there are Municipal and County easements on the property. The county was willing to terminate the easements in order to facilitate the Green Acres acquisition. The municipality was not willing. The landowners are still looking for ways to preserve the property. Mr. Tierney inquired if the board wanted to pursue the purchase of this property even though it does not currently border any of our properties. It does border state property. The alternative would be to still pursue it and just conserve the canal portion of it as open space and preserve the balance as farmland. Mr. Hann inquired to the cost of the property. Mr. Tierney said that before the additional 10 acres, the cost was around \$100,000. Mr. Hann moved to purchase the Carfaro property in the interest of the canal. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Tierney reviewed the administrative report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Tierney said that we were seeking approval from the board to install permanent overflow parking signs at the Vass House which is across the street from the main parking area. Mr. Hann moved to install. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Mr. Hann motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel  
Community Service Aide