

WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179
Oxford, NJ 07863
February 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 4:58 p.m., and read the Open Public Meeting Notice.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Corey Tierney, Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Kruegel

Public: John Trontis, Claire Arcaro

MINUTES: The January 10, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Hann requested that “meeting date and time approved,” be added to the meeting minutes. Mr. Hann motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Mr. Fineran seconded. Mr. Tobaygo abstained. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Tierney introduced Mr. Trontis and Ms. Arcaro.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Morris Canal Committee/Warren Heritage Scenic Byway

Morris Canal –

Ms. Roy reported that the Canal Committee met last week. They will not be having a bus tour again this year. They have decided to partner with the Canal Society and Parks Foundation to have a small history event at Bread Lock Park. They also want to work on the QR codes and possibly expanding them as well.

Mr. Tierney reported that he has had meetings with Mr. Detrick and Mr. Tarlowe at Port Colden. The County is working on making some further improvements there and securing the chamber before it allows the public in. The County will also need to establish its own driveway there so as not to encroach on the neighbor’s property.

Chairman Helbing and Mr. Tierney discussed putting a fence around the Marl Works at White Lake Natural Resource Area. Mr. Tierney emphasized that the county had a responsibility to do everything possible to prevent people from accessing the inside of the Marl Works because it is an unstable structure.

Mr. Tobaygo motioned to support the fencing at the Marl Works at White Lake.
Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Trail Committee:

A discussion was had regarding the renewed Warren-Highlands Trail meetings. Times and days were still to be determined.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tierney reviewed the administrative report. According to the title work, the property on Prospect Street in Lopatcong is not owned by the Trane Company so they are unable to donate it. The County is in the process of confirming whether the Trane Company has title to the Lock Street property.

Mr. Tierney scouted the 19 Hess Road donation from the Land Conservancy earlier today. There are some encroachments by the neighbors, but it looks like it can be worked out. It will take a couple more months to close, but this will add about 30 more acres to the White Lake property.

Mr. Tierney reported that the Blazek and the True properties are in attorney review. Surveys are finalized. He is still working with HMUA to move the water tank. There will be a hearing on March 20 before the Independence Township Land Use Board.

The Noel, Pierra and Pear Tree properties are under contract through Farmland Preservation, but have open space components Noel closed and the other two will probably close in the next few months.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Hann brought up an Express Times article from February 6 regarding the Phillipsburg trails along Riverfront Park. He spoke about the town's trail plan and potential to connect with Easton via the old railroad bridge.

Mr. Fineran motioned to support looking at that area along the MC Greenway Arch. Mr. Tierney inquired as to who would own the bridge and maintain it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Trontis introduced himself, spoke about his 40+ years experience in parks, and offered to help the Board and the County further develop and manage its parks. He was the Park Director for Hunterdon County and the Assistant Director of State Parks before retiring. He has also served as a Trustee with the Warren County Parks Foundation. Mr. Fineran motioned that given Mr. Trontis's background would be an asset to the Board of Recreation and recommend his appointment to the commissioners. Mr. Hann seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Halmi, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel
Community Service Aide