

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Helbing opened the meeting at 5:03 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: Claire Arcaro

MINUTES: The February 14, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Tobaygo motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Halmi seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Morris Canal Committee/Warren Heritage Scenic Byway

Morris Canal –

Ms. Roy reported that the Canal Committee met the day before. They are in the process of completing the Port Colden panels. Ms. Roy will be meeting with an engineer at Plane 9 at the beginning of next month to replace the timbers in the turbine chamber and work on the tailrace. There has been a good turnout in the number of visitors at museums.

Trail Committee:

A discussion was had regarding the Warren-Highlands Trail meeting, now set for Friday, March 24. Times and days were still to be determined.

Mr. Helbing inquired about the Conservation Foundation properties. Mr. Tierney explained that he will need to do further research on it. Ingrid Indagar (sp?) retired so there's a new person taking over the project files. They were amenable to donating their properties on Scott's Mountain to either the State or the County and the County has made their interest known.

Mr. Helbing reported that there was a tree down at Marble Hill on the State/County boundary.

Mr. Hann inquired about the accuracy of the Warren Highlands map. Mr. Helbing confirmed that it needs to be updated and guided the committee to maps on some state websites.

Mr. Tierney asked the committee to have representation for the Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Committee. Mr. Hann motioned for Charlie Fineran to be appointed. Mr. Tobaygo seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tierney reviewed the administrative report and provided corresponding maps for two acquisitions. He further provided information on the Gesner property that is on Block 5, Lot 28 which is about 14 acres and another property in Washington Twp off of Lannings Trail and adjacent to state and county land on Oxford Mountain that is about 15 acres.

Mr. Tobaygo motioned to seek acquisition of the Gesner property. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Tobaygo motioned to seek acquisition of the Washington Twp properties near the Lannings Trail. Mr. Halmi seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Mr. Tierney provided information on two permit requests made through the Office of Land Preservation. The first request is from the Methodist Church in Blairstown to provide an Easter Sunrise Service on 4/9/23 at White Lake. They have done it in the past without incident. Mr. Tobaygo motioned to accept the permit request. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The second is a request to film at White Lake. The Warren County Economic Committee is encouraging more filming in the area. Sage and Tourist Productions is requesting to film an independent film at White Lake for 2 hours for a day in August or September with one cast and four crew. They would have no more than two vehicles. They are looking to film among the wildflowers. They can secure liability insurance and they are not requesting the parking lot to be closed off. A discussion was had regarding charging a fee for these type of requests. Ms. Roy recommended they film during a weekday instead of a weekend since the park might be less crowded at that time. The board agreed they should have a standardized procedure that will charge certain permits for use of the park grounds.

Mr. Tobaygo motioned to approve the permit request for Sage and Tourist with the request that they film during the week, coordinate with the land steward and giving the County of Warren credit and future permits may have a charge associated with them. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Tierney reported on upcoming events. Warren Heritage Trail meeting on Friday, March 24 from 10-12. A Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, April 15 from 10-12 at Richard Gardner Library. On National Trails Day which is Saturday, June 6, there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Oxford Mountain Trail. On Saturday, June 10, the Parks Foundation and Morris Canal Committee are having an event at Bread Lock Park.

Mr. Tierney inquired with the board if they should cancel the July meeting due to multiple staff members being on vacation. The board agreed that unless there was a pressing issue to review that the meeting would be canceled for that month.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Mr. Tobaygo motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel
Community Service Aide