

WARREN COUNTY MORRIS CANAL COMMITTEE
c/o Warren County Department of Land Preservation
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, PO Box 179
Oxford, NJ 07863

January 9, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Ms. Roy opened the meeting at 5:39 PM.

Roll Call: Members Present: Tim Roth, David Detrick, James Lee II, James Lee III, Paul Tarlowe, Charlie Fineran, Randy Piazza

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Ms. Roy opened up nominations for Chair. Mr. Fineran nominated Mr. Lee III. Mr. Piazza seconded. All in favor. Motioned passed. Ms. Roy pointed out that Mr. Tarlowe is now a voting member. Ms. Roy turned the meeting over to Mr. Lee III.

Mr. Lee III opened nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Detrick nominated Mr. Roth. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes: The November 14, 2022 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Roth motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to approve the minutes. Mr. Piazza abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None.

Communication and Bills: None

Old Business:

Ms. Roy reported that the estimate for the turbine arm fabrication has been submitted for payment.

The RFP for the turbine chamber improvements will be revised, removing the arm fabrication and replacement. Mr. Lee III requested he be advised when that happens so he can contact qualified contractors. Mr. Lee inquired about the lights as well and stressed that they would like that done before they open again for tours in April

Mr. Lee III confirmed with Ms. Roy that the interpretative panels (Port Colden) were paid for out of the 2022 budget and are being completed. He related to the committee that he has not finalized the brochure.

Budget:

Ms. Roy reported that the anticipated budget for 2023 would be \$5,300 as in past years. This will be confirmed after the County budget is finalized and approved.

Goals & Projects:

Mr. Lee III asked specific goals the Committee suggests for the year.

Mr. Detrick suggested wayfinding and interpretative signage for Port Murray. He suggested the same for Plane 10. Mr. Lee III agreed but suggests that Plane 10 be revisited to consider how the public would be invited to enter and tour the site. Parking is an issue to be addressed.

Mr. Lee III suggested getting the Plane 9 arm, timber and light replacement completed.

Mr. Roth suggested a goal should creating a plan to get the public to the Port Colden/Plane 6 W site.

Mr. Fineran comments that the kiosks along the Allamuchy Nature Trail can be utilized to promote the Morris Canal. There was a discussion about whether or how a Greenway panel could be installed. Mr. Detrick suggested that Mr. Fineran call him so they can collaborate on the project.

There was a discussion about signage at Port Murray.

Mr. Detrick recommended revisiting the compilation of all the panels as a tribute to Myra Snook.

Mr. Lee suggested updating/reprinting the QR codes posted at Plane 9. Ms. Roy reminded the Committee that the ExploreMorrisCanal.org website was created for this purpose and can be expanded. Mr. Detrick commented that many visitors to the museum at Bread Lock Park utilize the Rockport train wreck QR code and suggests that QR codes be further utilized.

Ms. Roy reported that there is a new trail at Oxford Mountain. While this is not a Morris Canal site, it may be suited to collaborating with other groups to promote local history. Mr. Roth has been actively working on the site within the past few weeks and reported on the relics and remains that are found there.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Bread Lock Park-

Mr. Detrick thanked Mr. Tarlowe and Ms. Roy for their advertising because they had 40-50 people visiting the museum at the Open House.

Plane 10-

Mr. Lee III reported that there is now a gate on the tailrace and the door is now locked with a county lock.

Plane 9-

Mr. Lee III reported that there have many people hiking the trails in the area. Ms. Roy requested visitor numbers from 2022 at their earliest convenience.

Port Colden & Port Murray:

Mr. Detrick related that he has a meeting set up with Mr. Tierney at Port Colden and Port Murray on January 18 at 1 PM and invited them to join. They will discuss various projects there including possible widening of the driveway and looking into signage.

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Ms. Roy reported on the administrative report that will be given to the Board of Rec tomorrow. The owner of the parcel containing the canal on the north side of Harvey Street (Florence Kuipers Park) has declined the appraisal offer. A conditional offer made on the property at the intersection of Bowerstown Road and Plane Hill Road had conditionally accepted but the owner was unwilling to meet those conditions (site clean-up).

Ms. Roy received a call from an individual who lives on Baldwin Street, adjoining Florence Kuipers Park. He believes they found a cold storage area that had been used by the old brewery. He is interested in seeing if it can be preserved. He wondered if there is any way the County would or could be interested in the site. The brewery is documented in the Morrell Survey of the Canal. Following a discussion, the Committee determined that it would be good to see the site. Ms. Roy work on setting up a site visit.

Calendar & Schedule:

The meeting dates in February and October have to be rescheduled (County closed those dates). After discussion, it was determined that the February meeting will be held on the 6th (5:30 PM) and the October meeting will be held on the 16th (5:30 PM).

Education and Public Awareness:

Mr. Lee III commented that the signs in progress along with brochures provide public awareness.

Mr. Lee II reported that the new Lock 8 brown signs have been installed (back to back, single post) by the Youth Corps.

Ms. Roy has been attempting to contact Pohatcong Township regarding the Lock 8 interpretive panel to be installed in their park but has not heard back from them.

Ms. Roy inquired if the committee wanted to do a bus tour this year and suggested they begin the process now if they want to pursue it. Mr. Lee III suggested they consider other options instead of a bus tour. Mr. Roth suggested an alternative to ParkFest and bus tours. He would like to collaborate with the Parks Foundation and the Canal Society

to create a smaller history event at Bread Lock Park. He will provide details for consideration at the February meeting.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be February 6, 2023, via WebEx, at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran, seconded by Mr. Roth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Staff Representative