

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

**February 6, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:56 PM.

**Roll Call:**

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

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

**Minutes:** The January 9, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Detrick pointed out typos on the second page, fourth line down, under goals and projects plan not plane and a couple paragraphs down from that was that it should be the Rockport Train wreck not Trail wreck. Mr. Tarlowe also pointed out under education and awareness it should read progress not process. Mr. Detrick motioned as amended, seconded by Mr. Roth, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Correspondence:** None.

**Communication and Bills:** None

**Budget:**

**Report of Officers and Committees:**

**Plane 9-**

Ms. Roy reported that she spoke with the Engineer Paul Sturbens regarding the turbine timber replacement and the tailrace project. She will be sending him the materials we have to date for his review. He confirmed that his firm has done work on historic sites. If needed, the project will be handled in conjunction with their structural department.

Mr. Lee III inquired if there was any update on the turbine arm replication. Ms. Roy reported that the firm (Feilbach Welding) requested a down payment before they began the project. That paperwork was submitted and due to be paid. Mr. Lee III further inquired how long the production process would take and how heavy the arm would be. Ms. Roy did not know and suggested they inquire with the vendor.

Ms. Roy spoke with Mike Muckle with the Youth Corps about cleaning up in the area of the view shed by Plane 9 so it is more visible. Mr. Lee III reported that there were a lot of down trees along the incline plane and requested it be cleaned up. Mr. Lee III also requested a meeting regarding lawn care. Ms. Roy said she would speak with Mr. Tierney and Mr. Muckle about it.

### **Bread Lock Park:**

Mr. Roth discussed the proposal for Bread Lock Park event to substitute for ParkFest hosted in collaboration with Warren County Parks Foundation, the Canal Society, and the MCC. Due to time constraints, there will be limited support provided by County staff. Mr. Roth will take the lead on organizing the event. It is proposed that it be a history-oriented event. A clean-up day will be scheduled to prep the site and promotion will be largely via social media, email blasts and websites. The committee determined to hold it on Saturday, June 10, 2023. A subcommittee was formed including Mr. Roth, Mr. Detrick and Ms. Hehn of the Parks Foundation. Ms. Roy said she would let Mike Muckle know.

Mr. Detrick reported that they are working on making benches and they discussed locations to put them.

### **Land Preservation Project Updates:**

Ms. Roy reported that there was no current administrative report this month because the meeting was a week earlier than usual so there are no updates on the projects at this time.

### **Plane 6:**

Mr. Detrick reported that they had a meeting at Plane 6 last month. It involved Mr. Tierney, Ms. Roy, Mr. Tarlowe and a resident near the property. A discussion was had about widening the access driveway. Ms. Roy is working with a surveyor to determine property lines and Mr. Detrick will contact an excavator to widen and add gravel to the driveway for easier access to the parking lot.

It was agreed at the turbine chamber to put a halt on digging it out and put efforts into making what is there safer, including raising the ground level (with mulch and top soil) to the top of the frame around the powerhouse.

### **Port Murray:**

Mr. Detrick also reported that they met at Port Murray. There was an agreement to move the County Parkland sign closer to Hoffman Rd so it was more visible. Debris has been stockpiled at the intersection of the TerraCotta Road and the interior driveway. Ms. Roy is in contact with the Youth Corps to arrange for pickup.

The map in the kiosks near the parking lot and the area by the towpath needs to be updated. Ms. Roy will email the trail map to the committee for them to review. Mr.

Detrick suggested that in addition they get Joe Macasek to the site to facilitate his designs. Ms. Roy suggested involving Mr. Tierney as there are County considerations that need to be included in the site expansion.

**Brewery Vault:**

Mr. Lee III inquired about the old Hackettstown brewery vault that was toured by some members. The site appears to be entirely on private property. Ms. Roy advised that because it was on private property, public funds cannot be directly used for a project there. However, the Committee could choose to use their funds on it if they agreed. Ms. Roy advised Mr. Tierney about the site and that there were some grants available for preservation. It was suggested to start of a subcommittee regarding the place. Mr. Lee III pointed out that the brewery site is not directly part of the canal. It is complicated because it is on private property and not a good place for a tour stop. Mr. Piazza will touch base with his son regarding the property. Mr. Lee III suggested the Committee table discussion at this time. .

**Lock 8:**

Ms. Roy reported that contacted the town clerk regarding the interpretive panel for Lock 8. The clerk will try to bring it up at the next meeting.

**Education and Public Awareness:**

Mr. Lee III reported that they have a couple of Spring programs lined up at Plane 9 with a hiking club and the Mansfield Historic Society.

Mr. Detrick is working on a possible tour (by invitation) of the Pump House. Ms. Roy advised that Ken Miller would not be able to provide a tour of the pump house.

**Meeting Schedule:** Next meeting will be March 13, 2023, virtually at 5:30 PM.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Lee III, seconded by Mr. Roth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Staff Representative