

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

March 13, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:33 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Minutes: The February 6, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Roth motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Detrick seconded. Mr. Fineran abstained. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

None

Correspondence: None.

Communication and Bills: None

Budget:

Report of Officers and Committees:

Mr. Roth reported that the event in June will now be titled, "Bread Lock Park Canal and History Day" to be held on June 10. Mr. Roth, Mr. Detrick and Ms. Hehn met a couple weeks ago to go over ideas for the event. Mr. Roth is looking into getting "The Cracked Walnuts" band for the day.

Mr. Roth inquired if Ms. Roy had a distribution list from past ParkFests. Ms. Roy will share her spreadsheet with them.

Mr. Detrick added that he spoke with Mr. Tierney and that he would be willing to pay for the portajohn and the wash station. Mr. Tierney also hopes the siding on the barn will be done in time for the event.

Ms. Roy shared the by-laws with the committee to reflect the current schedule. Mr. Lee III motioned to approve the by-laws update. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Port Murray:

Mr. Roth pointed out that the gate at the end of the tailrace had been removed. Ms. Roy reported that the bridge department put something more secure up on Friday.

Ms. Roy is working with the Planning Department on the trail map updates.

Bread Lock Park-

Mr. Detrick that they are working on finishing up the order of benches for the county. They are also working on replacing the kiosk in the front of the shop to accommodate a horizontally oriented park map. There is a scout project on wing spans being completed. Recently, they have had good crowds at the museum with approximately 30-35 people yesterday. There was a discussion about how to try to count visitors.

Plane 6-

Mr. Detrick inquired about an update on the surveyor. Ms. Roy reported that it was approved and they should be getting ready to do their work.

Mr. Detrick inquired about the status of the panels. Ms. Roy said that they had been sent to the Committee for review; Mr. Tierney and Ms. Roy had comments on them. Following a discussion about the reviews, Mr. Lee III suggested someone collect the comments and they have them resent. Mr. Detrick motioned to have allow a subcommittee to make a decision by April 3 based on comments collected by March 27. Mr. Lee II seconded. All in favor. Ms. Roy will resend all comments to the group on line for this meeting. Dave, Tim, Paul will form the approval subcommittee.

Ms. Roy pointed out that April 9 is Easter Sunday and is supposed to be a museum opening day. Mr. Lee III and Mr. Detrick recommending pushing the date back to April 16. Ms. Roy said she will update Facebook and notify Art Charlton. Mr. Tarlowe recommended putting laminated signs on the doors to indicate the museum is closed that day.

Plane 9-

Mr. Lee III shared that the turbine arm was delivered today. They will make a plan to get it fixed to the turbine.

Mr. Lee III inquired about the update on fixing the lights in the chamber. Ms. Roy reported that she has been playing email tag with Bill Hodge. She is hoping to speak with him tomorrow.

Mr. Lee III inquired about the timber. Ms. Roy reached out to Paul Sturbenz, PE, and spoke with him about taking on the project. They will have a tentative date of April 6 to have a site meeting. Mr. Lee III, Mr. Lee II and Mr. Tarlowe will be able to meet with him on that day.

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Ms. Roy reviewed the report that will be given to the Board of Recreation tomorrow. The property across from Bread Lock Park called Janecko had an appraisal done that was rejected. Mr. Tierney is looking into getting it reappraised. The Sigler Farm on Route 57 has been appraised and an offer was made but no word on if it was accepted or not.

Education and Public Awareness:

Ms. Roy reported that the Bicentennial Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board have scheduled outreach meetings. Historic groups, like the Morris Canal Committee, are also invited to attend. Events are being planned for the lead-up to the County Bicentennial celebration which this

Committee could participate in. She also mentioned that there are associated grants for historic organizations.

Mr. Roth said that he has been running canal walks with Beth Hehn and they have a following of about 10 people. This can grow into official Morris Canal Committee hikes.

Mr. Lee II reported that he will be giving canal history presentation for a Mansfield group. Ms. Roy offered to assist.

The Lees will be hosting a special tour at Plane 9 for the Hunterdon Hiking Club.

The Warren County History Tour for 2023 is currently being planned.

Mr. Detrick inquired about the Gladys Egger "Life Along the Old Morris Canal In Warren County" script. There was a discussion about how it could be used. Mr. Roth commented that an online posting could be hyper linked with photos and maps. Mr. Roth offered to work on revising it to a third-person narrative.

Mr. Detrick asked about the panel booklet project (Myra tribute). Ms. Roy said all portions will need to be requoted. The order of the panels needs to be determined and an introduction written. Mr. Lee II and Mr. Lee III said they will work on it. Mr. Detrick offered to write the introduction.

There was a discussion about MCC records and resources. Ms. Roy reminded the Committee of the Lee slide collection, the Schisler paintings. There are other documents and reports. Making these resources available on-line is also something to consider. The exploremorriscanal.org website would be an option for this. The Committee was also reminded that Myra Snook's Warren County records are in storage and need to be reviewed. Mr. Fineran inquired if we can get the library involved and keep the collection there. Mr. Lee III requested a generic list be emailed to be discussed at a later date.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be April 10, 2023, virtually at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran, seconded by Mr. Roth, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel
Staff Representative