

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

April 17, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:37 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Minutes: The March 13, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Lee III motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Roth seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None.

Communication and Bills: None

Budget: Nothing new

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Ms. Roy reviewed the administrator's report and talked about two farmland preservation applications with Morris Canal easements that were closed. Both properties are across from Warren County Tech.

Mr. Lee III inquired about an updated map of the county owned properties. Ms. Roy will send something out to everyone.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Phillipsburg: nothing new

Pohatcong:

Mr. Lee III inquired about the Lock 8 interpretive sign to be installed at the municipal park/ball field. Ms. Roy has not heard back from the clerk.

Lock Street:

Mr. Lee III commented that Strykers Road is mess from the work being done there. Ms. Roy reported that they have been in contact with the engineering department multiple times. Mr. Tierney has been told that the area will be restored.

Ms. Roy gave an update on the warehouse project where the solar field is presently on Strykers Road.

Mr. Lee Jr reported that Plane 10 was mowed today.

Port Warren/Plane 9:

Mr. Lee III reported that they have not put the turbine arm on yet and they are still figuring out how to do it.

Following a site meeting with two engineers, the County will be receiving two proposals - one is for the oversight of replacing the timbers in the chambers and the other is for the tailrace.

Mr. Lee III reported that they had 9 people on tours yesterday. They did a tour for the Hunterdon Hiking Club that only ended up with about 4 people in attendance due to inclement weather. They are planning another talk and a Hillsborough Senior Men tour is coming up. Ms. Roy reminded them to provide her with numbers and information to document.

Bread Lock Park:

Mr. Lee III commented on the use of the trail from Stewartsville over. Ms. Roy felt it needed some updates at the trailhead to make it more attractive.

Youth Corps pulled the benches and tables at Plane 9 to be rehabbed; they are currently stored behind the shop. Mr. Lee III requested at least 2 picnic tables back to Plane 9. Ms. Roy said tables and benches need not to be located in the parking area.

Mr. Detrick reported that the scout project for the bird silhouette is being finished up this coming weekend. Another prospective Eagle Scout is interested in fixing up the bridge along the fitness trail.

Mr. Detrick confirmed that they agreed to move the tours dates for May to the following weekend due to Mother's Day. He requested a laminated sign for the Bread Lock Park Museum about the change of date.

They have been working on the adopt-a-trail signs and trail markers.

Ms. Roy reported that there were no updates regarding when the barn residing would be done.

Washington Township:

Mr. Detrick is working with Washington BID to create a sign that is related to the Morris Canal Society using the Historic Trail Marker grant awarded by the County.

Port Colden:

Mr. Detrick there is a backhoe that is scheduled to come to make the entrance wider on Monday, April 24. They will also do additional work around the inclined plane to make the site safer.

The signs have been reviewed and Ms. Roy sent the changes down to Joe. Ms. Roy spoke with him today and he is working on the last of the changes. He inquired as to what websites to list. Ms. Roy recommended he use exploremorriscanal.org instead of morriscanal.org.

Port Murray:

Ms. Roy is working with Albert on the trail map updates.

Mr. Detrick recommended that the interpretive signage be completed this year. There was a discussion about the existing but unfinished panel created by Ms. Snook. Mr. Tarlowe, Mr. Roth and Mr. Detrick will form the subcommittee this project.

Plane 6:

Port Murray:

Ms. Roy is working on finishing the trail map for the site.

Mr. Detrick recommended they begin working on interpretive signage in May or June so they can use the money from this years funds. Ms. Roy suggested creating a subcommittee. Mr. Roth, Mr. Tarlowe and Mr. Detrick agreed to create a subcommittee for the site and meet up the beginning of May.

Cherry Tree Bend:

Mr. Detrick reported that he and Mr. Tarlowe put in the Adopt a Trail sign for Stan Cohen and Nina Denysenko. He noted that they have been maintaining this section since 1988.

He also noted that they want to have a workday to stabilize the wooden walkway that goes across the canal.

The parking area was discussed and attempts to make it bigger. Ms. Roy pointed out that there is no official parking at this site. Cherry Tree Bend Road is a municipal road.

Florence Kuipers:

Ms. Roy reported that Ms. Hehn and her crew (WC Parks Foundation) were maintaining the trails.

Mr. Roth said that they are moving trail equipment from Judy Keith's house to Beth's as it is closer to county properties for use.

Bilby Road:

Ms. Roy reported that Joe will shortly begin working on the Waterloo Valley Trail brochure.

Mr. Roth said they put in posts for adopt a trail. Once it is ready, he will attach the sign.

Mr. Lee III inquired about the steps at the end of the Bilby Trail. Ms. Roy said although we reached out to the NJSP superintendent. As it is out of county, it is a Parks Foundation project.

Events/Education/Public Awareness:

Mr. Roth gave an update on the Warren County Canal and History Day scheduled for June 10, 2023 from 10-4. He has hired a band that the Canal Society has agreed to pay for.

Sent out an email to past participants and he has gotten several responses already. They are going to try and keep everything between the boat and museum.

Mr. Roth inquired about obtaining port-o-johns and hand wash stations. Ms. Roy advised him to just confirm what he wants and the LP Department will coordinate ordering the units.

Mr. Roth will create a flyer and start to get the word out about the event.

Projects:

There was a discussion about the Gladys Egler 'Life Along the Old Morris Canal' narrative and how it can be used at this time. Mr. Lee will review the edits provided by Mr. Roth; the project can be further discussed at the May meeting.

Mr. Lee III has to meet with Ms. Roy and create an order for the panels to be used for the Myra Snook tribute project. Mr. Detrick offered to write an introduction for the booklet. If possible, the exploremorriscanal.org website should be the host site.

Mr. Lee III discussed having a meeting regarding the records and resources and requested a list of general items. Ms. Roy is working on the list.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be May 8, 2023, virtually at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Detrick, seconded by Mr. Roth, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Staff Representative