

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

May 8, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:40 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 April 17, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Roth motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Tarlowe seconded. Mr. Fineran abstained. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

None

Correspondence: None.

Communication and Bills: None

Budget: Nothing new.

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Ms. Roy reported that the Plane 9 proposals from Colliers Engineering to oversee the work done in the turbine chamber and for the work to be done on the headwall and the tailrace exit have been approved.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Phillipsburg:

Pohatcong:

Plane 10:

Mr. Lee II reported that he had mowed the area today.

Lock Street:

Mr. Lee III commented that Stryker's Road was still a mess with the construction work along the road. Ms. Roy reported that the company responsible for the project has stated they are committed to restoring the site. Ms. Roy has been tasked with monitoring it.

Plane 9-

Mr. Lee III reported that they have had a lot of fishermen in the area and parking on the grass. It is not too bad at the moment but can potentially cause damage. Ms. Roy requested he monitor the area and let the Land Preservation office know if there any damage.

Signs will be up at each site letting people know that the museum will be closed on Mother's Day, May 14. Ms. Roy said she will also post on Facebook. Mr. Tarlowe requested a sign be put up at Bread Lock Park.

Mr. Lee II requested more permanent signs Ms. Roy requested they send an email detailing their request. Mr. Detrick said they can be done in the shop.

Mr. Lee III inquired about a new RFP for the contractor for the timber replacement..Ms Roy confirmed that the project will move forward as soon as the proposals with Colliers Engineering are completed. Mr. Lee III has not put the turbine arm up yet and will be painting and prepping it. Ms. Roy asked if they want to

Ms. Roy reported that the Youth Corps worked on the trailhead entrance for Thomas Carlisle Drive and replaced the gates. The walk-in entrance will be a stile. A kiosk will be installed.

Bread Lock Park-

Mr. Tarlowe was at the park yesterday to help rake and smooth out the soil where the trees in front of the museum were removed. Seed and hay were put down and volunteers were planning to water it regularly to get the grass to germinate.

Ms. Roy reported that the field behind the museum will also be turned into a pollinator field.

There are carpenter bees along the towpath. Mr. Detrick said he would take care of it on Saturday.

Ms. Roy said that the barn residing will be done soon. The contractors had to wait for nighttime temperatures to be in the mid to upper 40's. Mr. Detrick said they would not be using the barn or stage area for the History Day on June 10. They will tape the area off to exclude it from the event space.

Mr. Roth reported that the Park Foundation installed a bench at the North Main Street trailhead.

Port Colden-

Mr. Detrick reported that Troy Van Syckle was hired to work at the site. The dirt around the top of the turbine chamber was leveled, more glass was cleaned up and the area is now clear. Next step will be seeding or wood chipping. The pile of logs has been removed from the top of the plane and the dirt and rocks in front of the two tunnels have been removed.. One of the tunnels appears to be in very good shape. The other has issues that need to be addressed. Some temporary fencing was put up (above and in front of the tunnels) due to a significant drop-off in that area. A permanent solution to protect the site as well as visitors is needed.

The driveway was widened so that we can enter our lot without going on the neighbor's property.

Mr. Detrick inquired if there was anything regarding the final copy of the interpretive signs. Ms. Roy sent them to the committee and received comments from Mr. Lee II and Mr. Tarlowe. Mr. Detrick did not receive the email so he will discuss it with Ms. Roy at a later date. He has places set aside to put up the pedestal signs.

Ms. Roy asked Mr. Lee III to look more closely at the arches and the impacts of any work done there with SHPO. Mr. Lee III asked Ms. Roy to send the photos of the area for his review. He also said he would go to the site to see inspect the tunnels.

Port Murray:

Interpretative signage is to be done this year. Mr. Detrick reminded the group a sub-committee was formed (Mr. Roth, Mr. Tarlowe and Mr. Detrick) to work on the project. He suggested a site meeting, possibly including Mr. Macasek, as well as Ms. Roy, to discuss where the signage should be located. Mr. Detrick will set up the meeting, possibly at the end of this month.

A workday will be set up in mid-June for a workday to stabilize the wood walkway on the Cherry Tree Bend trail section. Mr. Detrick commented on a Facebook post done by Stan Cohen detailing the work he did on the section he maintains. Mr. Detrick asked Ms. Roy to forward the link to the group.

Mr. Lee II asked about parking at the Cherry Tree Bend trailhead. Ms. Roy stated she confirmed with Mr. Tierney that there is no official parking at this location. There is an informal pull-off on the municipal road. Hoffman Road parking lot is the official parking for this section of the Greenway trail.

Mr. Detrick noted that he and Mr. Roth installed a bench near Hart's Lane.

Florence Kuipers-

Continues to be well-maintained.

Mr. Detrick noted that they will be putting in a bench on the western end of Florence Kuipers.

Bilby Road-

Ms. Hehn was out there on Saturday so things look good there. Mr. Roth put up the adopt-a-trail signs in that area.

Mr. Roth inquired about the trail by the condos. Ms. Roy confirmed there is an easement there including use of roads and sidewalks.

Events-

Mr. Roth gave an update on the Warren County Canal and History Day scheduled for June 10, 2023 from 10-4. The event will be staged to keep everything between the boat and the museum. There will be all the vendors and bands in that area. They have about a dozen

different vendors signed up. Mr. Roth put together a flyer for the event and will start promoting it this week.

Projects-

Mr. Lee III had not read the edits for the Gladys Egler narrative. Suggestion is to table further discussion to next meeting as the Committee is busy prepping for the Canal and History Day.

The Myra Snook tribute project: Ms. Roy sent the contact information for the webmaster used for the warrenparks.com website and can forward it again. The exploremorriscanal.org website will have to be reviewed to see if it is suitable for use to host this and other projects. Mr. Lee III will take the lead on it and will contact the webmaster. Mr. Lee III asked how the digital contact will be acquired and managed. The webmaster will need to provide what will be optimal for creating this on-line resource.

Mr. Lee III discussed having a meeting regarding the records and resources and requested a list of general items. Ms. Roy is creating the list as an-going project. .

Mr. Lee III discussed switching out paintings in the museum at Plane 9. Ms. Rosseland entered most of the paintings into Past Perfect archive software. This archiving needs to be finalized.

Ms. Roy discussed the need to clean the artifacts in the museums. Gary McGowan is willing to give a workshop on how to properly clean the paintings. They will work on setting up a workshop in the fall.

Mr. Lee II & III are giving a talk, based on showing the animation, tomorrow, May 9, at the Mansfield Senior Center at the Firehouse at 1:30. Ms. Roy requested the number of people in attendance and a short write-up about it.

Mr. Fineran inquired about the event in June at Waterloo and if there would be any tables set-up. Ms. Roy and Mr. Lee III can provide Mr. Fineran with supplies.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be June 12, 2023, virtually at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran, seconded by Mr. Roth, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Staff Representative