

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

June 26, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Tim Roth, Charles Fineran, James Lee II, James Lee III, Paul Tarlowe, Randy Piazza, David Detrick (joined at 5:52)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy

Minutes: The May 8, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Tarlowe seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Piazza abstained.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None.

Communication and Bills: None

Budget: Nothing new

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Ms. Roy reviewed the administrator's report.

Port Warren: Trailhead improvements are being done at Thomas Carling Drive.

Bread Lock Park: barn recladding is scheduled to begin early next week. The wildflower meadow has been planted.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Phillipsburg: Ms. Roy reported that Phillipsburg received an NJTPA grant for trail improvements. It utilizes the railroad bed and would connect to Lock Street.

She also reported that the Union Station Museum was reopened.

Lock Street: nothing to report

Port Warren/Plane 9:

Mr. Lee III reported it appears that the work site along Strykers Road is being cleaned up.

Mr. Lee III reported an increase of visitors at Plane 9. Many are asking for information about the trail. It was noted that the trail should be reblazed. Ms. Roy suggested that a park trail map should be installed by the parking area.

Bread Lock Park:

Ms. Roy reported that the Scouts had a workday and did clean up at BLP.

Mr. Detrick reported a good number of visitors at the museum open house on Sunday.

Port Colden:

Mr. Detrick reported that the panels are being finalized. He asked Ms. Roy about the status of the latest files for review. Ms. Roy reported that the latest files were shared in a DropBox link for the MCC to review. Ms. Roy asked the Committee review the comments and determine when the revisions are complete. When the review is complete, she will send the files to Joe.

There was a discussion about how to handle the review of edits of the files.

Mr. Lee III is obtaining the dismantling drawings for Plane 6. They may provide some information about the arches that were found within a towpath culvert on the plane.

Mr. Tarlowe has photos of the interior arches. Mr. Lee III pointed out the arches are made of poorly-pointed brick which does not suggest they are original. A safety fence will be installed above the arches.

Port Murray:

Mr. Detrick reviewed the proposal that he previously sent out for interpretative signs, six in total. Mr. Fineran proposed a motion that the subcommittee (Mr. Tarlowe, Mr. Roth and Mr. Detrick) proceed with this project. Mr. Lee III seconded the motion; the motion passed, Mr. Roth abstained.

Mr. Lee III asked if a bench was installed at Harts Lane. Mr. Detrick reported that the bench was installed but it needs to be stabilized it so that it cannot be moved.

Florence Kuipers:

The bench has not yet been installed.

Bilby Road:

Mr. Roth reported that the Youth Corps is maintaining the trail up to the bridge and the Parks Foundation past the bridge.

Events/Education/Public Awareness:

Warren County Canal and History Day was held on June 10. Mr. Roth reported there was approximately 100-150 visitors. While a smaller group, the day was a success with engaged visitors. The goal for next year is to increase and improve promotion.

Mr. Roth reported that he would have a display at the upcoming 'bicentennial concert in the park' (at Garrett Wall Park) that will include the Morris Canal Committee as well as the Canal Society of NJ.

There was a discussion about what resources are available for promotion, including press releases and radio ads (WRNJ).

The Warren County History Trail is scheduled for November.

Projects:

The Gladys Egler 'Life Along the Old Morris Canal' narrative project – no change.

Mr. Lee III has not yet contacted the webmaster to review what can be done with the current website (exploremorriscanal.org) for the Myra Snook tribute.

Ms. Roy will continue to document records and resources and will provide the group the list when it is compiled.

There was a discussion about hosting a workshop to learn how to clean and care for the paintings. Ms. Roy will follow up on this.

There was a discussion about signage on S. Main Street. It was decided that this project would be considered for 2024.

Ms. Roy reported that the tree across the Lopatcong Creek just below Plane 10 was removed by the Mosquito Commission.

Ms. Roy relayed that Mr. Tierney asked if anyone represents this Committee on the Scenic Byway Committee. Mr. Detrick who is already attending the meetings will be the representative.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be held virtually on August 14 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran, seconded by Mr. Roth, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Roy

Staff Representative