

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

**August 14, 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, David Detrick (joined at 5:38)

**Staff Present:** Elizabeth Roy, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel, Kim Barnes

**Minutes:** Mr. Tarlowe had minor edits on the June 26, 2023 minutes and had emailed Ms. Roy. Ms. Roy will make the changes as all were in agreement. Mr. Fineran motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Roth seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Communication and Bills:** None

**Budget:** Beginning balance was \$5,300. After the \$2,990 for Port Murray sign design (fabrication not incl.), remaining balance will be \$2,310. Balance must be spent before the end of the year.

**Land Preservation Project Updates:**

**Phillipsburg:**

Nothing to report.

**Lock Street:**

Ms. Roy inquired if Pohatcong Historical Society is still active as she would like help from them to get answer about Pohat sign that will go at the foot of Lock St. Mr. Lee III gave name of Mike Margulies as contact. Exact placement of sign was discussed. Mr. Lee Jr stated the brush on turbine chamber needs to be cut back. Ms. Roy will talk to Corey about it. Mr. Lee Jr repaired the lane that is on county property.

Plane 10 & Sycamore Landing area had a washout on stretch where they cut the brush on. The road crew would have to fix it with a backhoe.

Mr. Lee III stated the towpath bank on Lock St was really washed out at the Lopat/Pburg border. Ms. Roy will get pictures and see what assets are available to help repair it. The trail was maintained. Mr. Detrick thought Peter Branson was working on it.

### **Strykers Road:**

The drilling has been completed. Ms. Roy states there was a severe washout (3 ft deep) on the road that goes to Lopatcong Creek next to our trail. Trail itself is okay. The field on the canal side is part of the warehouse. Mr. Santini doesn't own it anymore, but still farms it. Mr. Roth said he hiked Strykers Rd a few weeks ago and it was mostly fine. The footbridge before Rt 519 was shifted.

### **Port Warren/Plane 9 West:**

Ms. Roy shared photos. Plane 9 was washed out twice in about 3 weeks. This was the worst. Damage on upper driveway has been repaired, but have to wait for bridge to be inspected by the county. K&A Paving was working in area and was able to repair it quickly. Remaining closed until the bridge inspection.

Ms. Roy has a concept plan from Colliers Engineering for the headwall and tale race exit repair and is sending it to Corey and then the board for approval.

Mr. Lee III said the roof was leaking and was just replaced today.

### **Bread Lock Park:**

The path from Stewartsville had extensive storm damage. Ms. Roy shared photos. At Richline Rd, the bench was wiped out but it was recovered by the Youth Corps and we got the timber back. The damage went to the base. Between Richline Rd and North Main St, the footbridge was pushed several hundred yards into the field, but has been moved back. The trail by the creek keeps getting damaged. On the road closer to BLP, the bridge took a hit and shifted a little off its footing. We need to move the exercise station because of creek bank erosion due to flooding. Mr. Detrick said that he will take care of it once cleared by Corey.

Ms. Roy and Jen met with an Eagle Scout who chose bat boxes and bee houses off the provided list. He will come back to us with a proposal (his Eagle Scout deadline is mid-December).

Saturday was the final installation of Eagle Scout project "What is Your Wing Span?" and it was unveiled on Sunday. Ms. Roy shared photos. Everyone agreed it looks great.

Mr. Tierney invites the board to attend the next Board of Recreation meeting on 9/12 at 5pm for his presentation on the Nature Center.

Mr. Detrick said we are moving along with the siding on the barn. Mr. Tarlowe stated there were maybe a dozen people who came to the museum on Sunday.

**Port Colden:**

Mr. Roth stopped by yesterday and stated the trails are very overgrown. Mr. Detrick reported that the panels should be done by the end of the week. We should schedule a work day to install panels and cut grass. Ms. Roy states the panels have shipped. Mr. Roth thinks we need a plan to let the public know once Port Colden is cleaned up and signs are up. Ms. Roy said signage is tricky (easements) and the more we use the driveway, the more likely we will have to fix it. Ms. Roy will address it to Mr. Tierney to get it on the BORC agenda.

**Port Murray:**

Ms. Roy reported she has Joe's proposal for the 6 interpretive signs. Mr. Detrick states the 6 signs are: 1 for the bottom of the incline plane, 2 by the power house, 1 on the road going toward the farm lane to interpret the brickyard, 1 to interpret the trolley line, and 1 on Hart's Lane as a general overview of the property. Mr. Detrick says the proposal has 2 review periods and beyond the 2 will have extra hourly costs. Ms. Roy shared the cost proposal is \$2,990 for the design work. Cost of fabrication is not yet known. Joe will draft the text for the signs. Mr. Detrick suggested Mr. Tarlowe be the editor and contact for Joe's content. Ms. Roy said the fabrication cost for the 6 smaller panels at port Colden cost \$333 which is a good price. Mr. Detrick said we are holding off on making the pedestals until we know if the signs are portrait or landscape.

Ms. Roy said there was some damage at the Port Murray boat basin area, washout around circle area by kiosk. There were trees down on area of boardwalk up to Cherry Tree Bend. She pulled away what she could but still needs to be cleared out. The Greenway panel near Cherry Tree Bend needs to be replaced.

**Florence Kuipers:**

No damage to report. There was a tree down but Aaron cleared it. Mr. Detrick tried to put a bench up there but there was too much water across the lane, so he took it back to BLP.

**Bilby Road:**

It is on the Youth Corps' regular rotation. No issues.

**Report of Officers and Committees:****Projects:**

The signs were discussed earlier in meeting.

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

Ms. Roy has been in touch with Gary McGowan about hosting a workshop (suggests 5-6 people) to learn how to clean and care for paintings. Mr. Lee III wants to participate.

Ms. Roy will follow up on dates. It was suggested to reach out to the Parks Foundation members as they may be interested too.

**Events/Education/Public Awareness:**

Start thinking about the proposed tour from the NJ Geological Association on 10/28. It's 2 coach buses, 75 people. Concerns (for them to figure out) are how they are going to access areas with the 2 buses. They plan to go to BLP for lunch and go to the museum. It was discussed to get at least 4 more people, 5 stations to handle the amount of visitors. We may need to split them into 2 groups, one going to BLP for lunch, one going to Plane 9 West for tour, and then switch.

The Warren County History Trail is scheduled for the following weekend 11/4-11/5. The bridge might not be open yet.

**Meeting Schedule:** Next meeting will be held virtually on September 11 at 5:30 PM.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Fineran, seconded by Mr. Roth, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Roy

Staff Representative