

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

November 13, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Tim Roth, Charles Fineran, James Lee Jr, James Lee III, Paul Tarlowe, David Detrick,

Members Absent: Randy Piazza Sr.

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Kim Barnes

Minutes: Mr. Fineran motioned to approve the 10/16/23 meeting minutes as is. Mr. Roth seconded. All members were in favor. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None

Communication and Bills: None

Budget: After factoring in the cost of the Port Murray panels, approx. funds available for the rest of the year = \$1,977. Balance must be spent before the end of the year.

There was a discussion regarding options to expend the available funds. As requested, Ms. Roy got an estimate to fabricate panels. A full-size panel will cost approximate \$160, not including any work by the graphic artist. Ms. Roy then screen-shared the Captain Campbell panel and the group discussed proposed edits provided by Mr. Tarlowe. The Committee approved all. The Committee then authorized Ms. Roy to arrange to have the file edited and the panel fabricated. Ms. Roy next screen-shared the Lock 8 panel and the group discussed the proposed edits provided by Mr. Tarlowe. After discussion, all were approved with the exception of one comment regarding a bid for the property in question. The Committee then authorized Ms. Roy to arrange to have the file edited and the panel fabricated.

Mr. Roth reminded the group that the Waterloo Valley Trail panel was never fabricated. There is a now much faded paper copy in the kiosk. The Committee then authorized Ms. Roy to have this panel fabricated.

Mr. Detrick commented that at least two panels, at the Port Warren weir and at the top of Plane 9, are oriented in the wrong direction for the kiosk location. These panels should be updated at some point.

There was a discussion about reprinting brochures. Mr. Detrick pointed out that there is a demand for the Greenway brochure. Ms. Roy stated that brochure still needs to be edited. Mr. Detrick suggested it be reprinted 'as is' and let edits be finished in the future.

Ms. Roy stated that following the recent museum tours, Mr. Tarlowe suggested that having something at the park entrance to draw attention when the museum is open would be helpful. Consequently, Ms. Roy contacted a vendor for prices, etc. for such flags. She screen-shared some illustrations of 'flutter flags'. After a discussion, the Committee authorized Ms. Roy to get quotes for two custom printed flags, one for Bread Lock Park and one for Port Warren/the Jim and Mary Lee Museum. Ms. Barnes suggested smaller yard signs could be displayed near the flutter flags with more details, like times of tours.

The Committee then discussed fabrication of the QR codes for Planes 9 and 10. Ms. Roy was authorized to have all these QR codes fabricated.

Mr. Lee III suggested the Committee consider purchasing supplies needed to clean the Schisler painting collection. Mr. Lee III and three other County volunteers recently participated in a painting cleaning/conservation workshop conducted by Gary McGowan. Ms. Roy has the list of suggested supplies including a HEPA-filter vacuum, an ultra-violet light, project lamps, cleanser and cotton swabs. The Committee authorized Ms. Roy to get quotes for all supplies and then provide the information to the Committee via email. The Committee will approve purchasing of items by return email.

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Strykers Road:

Ms. Roy reported that the Youth Corps has begun the work for the loop trail.

Port Warren/Plane 9 West:

Mr. Detrick asked if anyone had an update on the condition of the stairs and fencing at the weir. Ms. Roy reported that everything needs a new coat of stain/weather-proofing. Ms. Detrick suggested that this work be done as a Scout project or a Warren County Parks Foundation workday.

Mr. Lee III asked about the status of the timber replacement and the tailrace projects. Ms. Roy reported that the RFP for the timber replacement is being compiled and that the final design for the tailrace is being completed.

There are no updates on the bridge at Plane 9. It remains closed until it can be repaired.

Bread Lock Park:

Ms. Roy reported that the work on the main barn is completed but that repairs on the extension are still to be done. Ms. Roy provided an update on the open items on the fire inspection. She has contacted an electrical contractor and expects to meet at Bread Lock with him this week. Additionally, there are some open junction boxes in the shop that need covers and an emergency light that is not working. She asked Mr. Detrick if she could use covers that she found in storage in the shop. Mr. Detrick agreed and said the volunteers could help with the simple items.

Ms. Roy then reported that two Eagle Scout projects located in Bread Lock Park are nearing completion. She will keep the Committee updated as they progress.

There was a discussion about visitor counts for the History Trail (11/5) and for the regular museum open house (11/12). For the History Trail Day, Mr. Roth estimated 55 visitors came to the boat and probably 65 were at the museum. He suggested getting some kind of counter/clicker to keep track of visitors. Mr. Detrick said that would not work in the museum as there are two doors and visitors go from room to room. There were approximately 20 visitors to the regular museum open house on 11/12.

Port Colden:

Ms. Roy reported that gravel was delivered. There was an issue with the first attempt to deliver the material but when that was addressed, the material was able to be delivered.

Port Murray:

The panels were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Florence Kuipers:

Nothing new to report.

Bilby Road:

Nothing new to report.

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

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.

Events/Education/Public Awareness:

The NJ Geological Association tour, consisting of 2 coach buses and approximately 75 people, was on 10/28 and went very well. The organizer, Pierre Lacombe sent a complimentary email afterward with lots of positive feedback.

The Warren County History Trail was held 11/ and 11/5. There were an estimated 65 visitors to Bread Lock Park and about 8 visitors to the Jim and Mary Lee Museum, even with the bridge still closed.

Mr. Roth shared that Mr. Lee III will be speaking via Zoom to the Canal Society of New Jersey this Friday during the Canal Society's meeting.

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

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fineran. All in favor. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 6:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes

Staff Representative