

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

February 5, 2024

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Lee III opened the meeting at 5:31 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Kim Barnes

Minutes: Mr. Roth motioned to approve the 1/8/24 meeting minutes as is. Mr. Fineran seconded. All in favor, except for Mr. Piazza abstaining as he did not attend the 1/8 meeting. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

Public Comment (on agenda items): None

Correspondence: None

Communication: None

Bills & Budget: No bills. The 2024 budget is \$5,300.00, which is the same as last year. They will work on spending it earlier in the year so they are not scrambling at the end of the year.

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Phillipsburg:

Mr. Piazza reported that Phillipsburg was awarded a one million dollar grant for trails. Details to be provided at a later date.

Mr. Detrick and Mr. Lee Jr. will be meeting next week with Maryann, the owner of Steve's Cafe for the panel. Maryann emailed photos, but Mr. Lee Jr said they were not in a very good format. One of the photos is of a Schisler painting of skaters on the canal behind the tavern. Mr. Lee Jr. would like to know where the original is so he can make a better picture of it in case they were to use it on a kiosk in the future. Mr. Piazza thinks it may be at the municipal building. Ms. Roy reminded the committee to work through Corey Tierney if they are thinking of installing the panel on private property. Mr. Roth

asked for verification of a true connection with the Steve's Café building and the canal because his research shows it was not built until 1920.

Mr. Lee III said he still has not heard from Michael Margulies as to whom the best person is to contact at Pohatcong Twp. about the placement of the Lock 8 panel. Mr. Detrick suggested reaching out to Ingrid Gray, who is on the Scenic Byway Committee.

Plane 10 West/Lock Street:

Ms. Roy reported that the NJ Youth Corps has cutting the brush at this location on their radar. Mr. Lee III said he needs to provide Ms. Roy with a picture of the washout from the towpath down into Lock St, so it can hopefully be repaired.

Strykers Road:

Mr. Detrick, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Piazza have not yet set a date to move the kiosk. Mr. Detrick did inspect the kiosk and said it is repairable.

Ms. Roy said the NJ Youth Corps completed some work on the prism, but they had equipment problems. Their goal is to finish it before spring.

Mr. Lee III reported there is an ATV rider who has created an extensive trail network on county land next to the farmhouse, which should be looked into.

Port Warren/Plane 9 West:

Ms. Roy said there is no change on the bridge repair status. It is on the county repair list. The Harmony - Brass Castle Bridge just reopened from July so there is progress being made. The driveway is an issue, but the driveway repairs need to wait until the bridge is repaired.

There are two kiosks when you pull into the driveway at the bottom of Plane 9. Mr. Tierney would like both kiosks moved so it encourages visitors to continue driving up to the main parking area. One of the kiosks that he would like relocated to the upper main parking area will contain a park map. Mr. Lee Jr. would like to discuss this further with Mr. Tierney. He said the one kiosk is specific to Port Warren and he thinks it makes more sense to have it right at the entrance.

There was more discussion on the bridge repair and driveway washout. It takes time to obtain FEMA funds, archaeology review, and environmental review. For these reasons, the park is considered closed for repair and is not being promoted.

Ms. Roy reported we are still waiting on a meeting date with the Dept. of Public Works to coordinate the timber replacement and tailrace projects. These projects are not tied together.

There was a report of garbage near the Thomas Carling entrance. The neighbor that reported it ended up cleaning it up but requested it be monitored better. Mr. Lee III said

someone is still closing the one side of the gate even with the lock on it, so Ms. Roy is going to work on a solution.

Bread Lock Park:

Mr. Detrick shared they are still working on adding special features when the museum is open. Last month it worked well and they had a good crowd.

Ms. Roy reported there will be a fire inspection tomorrow. There will also be a new security system installed soon on the museum building.

Port Colden:

Nothing new to report.

Port Murray:

Ms. Roy shared the sad news of Stan Cohen's passing. He and his wife helped maintain the boat basin down to Cherry Tree Bend. Mr. Detrick said there was some discussion about putting a memorial bench there since Mr. Cohen was maintaining this area for so many years, and that Mr. Tierney would bring it up to the Board of Recreation Commissioners.

Mr. Detrick said they are starting to make the pedestals for the Port Murray panels at the Bread Lock Park shop. Joe wanted to clarify the size of the panels and is busy working on them. Mr. Detrick reminded Joe that Mr. Tarlowe is the contact person for review of the signs. Ms. Roy said Joe called her about setting up an industrial heritage hike during the second half of the year.

Florence Kuipers:

Mr. Roth said there was a big tree across the footbridge and at the head of the Mt. Rascal trail. The Youth Corps cleared these trees and repaired the bridge rail.

Bilby Road:

Nothing new to report.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Projects:

Mr. Lee III stated he still has not 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 museum at Bread Lock Park remains open year-round on the second Sunday of each month.

Mr. Lee III said a tour for the Youth Corps would be scheduled for late winter/early spring.

Ms. Roy said to not count on the Jim & Mary Lee Museum being open in April.

Mr. Lee Jr. and Mr. Detrick are going to talk about a date for a hike on Lock St. when they meet next week for the Steve's Café panel.

The Nature Center at Bread Lock Park is still in the planning stages.

2024 Calendar/Schedule:

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held virtually on March 11, 2024 at 5:30PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Roth. All in favor. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes

Staff Representative