

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

December 9, 2024

MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Members Present: Paul Tarlowe, Charles Fineran, Tim Roth, Dave Detrick, Jim Lee III

Members Absent: Randy Piazza Sr.

Staff Present: Elizabeth Roy, Kim Barnes

Minutes: Mr. Roth motioned to approve the 11/4/24 meeting minutes as is, seconded by Mr. Fineran. All voted in favor. Minutes accepted.

Public Comment (on agenda items): None.

Correspondence/Communication:

Last Monday, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hosted the biannual meeting of the Morris Canal Working Group. Mr. Fineran and Mr. Tarlowe complimented Mr. Roth's and Joe Macasek's presentations.

Bills & Budget: All funds have been spent for the year. There was an overage of \$210.62, but it was approved for payment.

New Business: None.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Land Preservation Project Updates:

Phillipsburg: Nothing to report.

Pohatcong: Nothing to report.

Lopatcong/Plane 10 West/Lock Street:

Mr. Lee III read the letter of thanks he drafted to send to the scout who completed an Eagle Scout project at the Lock Street Park. All approved of the letter. Mr. Lee III will forward it to Ms. Roy to deliver to the scout.

Mr. Detrick said the new panels are in the Bread Lock Park shop and are waiting to be installed when time and weather are favorable. Ms. Roy asked Mr. Detrick to forward to send

her the communication with the Board of Education regarding the sign behind Steve's Café, so it is saved in the County's files.

Strykers Road: Nothing to report.

Port Warren/Plane 9 West:

The proposal is to install a pedestrian bridge across the creek at Port Warren. Ms. Roy was with the group that met with the Public Works Dept. and other departments. They are trying to come up with a pedestrian bridge that will meet standards. There is no update on the new bridge.

Mr. Lee III said he has started making comments on the draft documents for the project authorization for the turbine improvements, timber replacement, and headwall and tailrace exit sidewalls. He will send them to Ms. Roy this month.

Bread Lock Park:

Mr. Detrick said all items the Parks Foundation owns that are in the BLP museum building have been disassembled. Once the new location at Meadow Breeze Park is ready, they can begin to move them. There is a Parks Foundation workday scheduled for next Friday. Mr. Detrick said a new Friends of the Museum at Meadow Breeze Park 501(c) 3 is being formed and they are applying for a grant from the Canal Society of NJ. They will be making a presentation to the Canal Society on 12/17.

Port Colden/Plane 6 West:

The Port Colden tour on 11/16 was well received. There were 25 people and all enjoyed it. The NJ Youth Corps helped with transportation. Prior to the tour, a neighbor had called to express her unhappiness that it was being held.

Port Murray: Nothing to report.

Florence Kuipers: Ms. Roy met with Corey Tierney, Warren County Parks Foundation Chair Beth Hehn, and Mr. Roth at the Rockport Road property. The WCPF will work on clearing the prism over the winter. Mr. Roth said they hope to have some kind of towpath started by spring. It will probably be an out and back trail.

Bilby Road: Nothing to report.

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 and other expanded virtual content.

Mr. Lee III started editing the Morris Canal Greenway brochure. He will finish the edits early next year. Printing the brochures will be a high priority next year.

Events/Education/Public Awareness:

The main events coming up are the transfer of the museum and clearing the towpath at the Rockport Road property. Mr. Tarlowe suggested an open house once the museum is ready.

The Warren County Bicentennial Gala was held on 11/12 at David's Country Inn. It was well attended and everyone had a great time. Many dressed in period costume. Mr. Detrick received an award for being the longest continually serving volunteer for Warren County and received a standing ovation.

Ms. Roy shared news of a new county employee, Director of Facilities and Parks Justin Tibbetts. It is a new position, so duties may be worked out as time goes on, but he will be working a lot with the physical structures - the buildings on park sites, parking lots, trailheads, etc.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held virtually on January 13, 2024 at 5:30PM and will be the reorganization meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Roth. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:06PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Barnes
Staff Representative