

October 2014 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Frank Dombroski

Tyler Dombroski

Bill Hause

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Dave Walker

Jerry Ward

Joe Ward

Public:

Karen Blackledge

Dave Decoteau

Jenn Kline

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mike Mills.

President's/Treasurer's Report – Mike Mills:

Mike commented that Dave Walker has been appointed to MARC's Board of Directors as a Montour County at large member.

Mike did not have a Treasurer's Report. This will be voted on via email.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Tyler provided an overview of the previous month's minutes.

Motion made Jerry Ward to accept the minutes; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Frank report that the Borough continues to police the Washingtonville Baseball Fields due to juvenile delinquent activities.

Danville – Bill declined to make a report.

Riverside – No report; no elected representatives present.

Montour County – Jerry Ward declined to make a report.

Danville Area School District – No report; no representatives present.

Public Comment:

Jenn Kline commented that she wished but was unable to attend the meeting in Washingtonville regarding the Montour Preserve's future.

Event Manager's Report – Dave Decoteau:

Dave provided an overview of the Chili Challenge. Dave commented that there were 168 finishers. The weather was chilly and wet for the event. Dave commented that he was surprised there were not more participants. There have been roughly the same amount of participants over the two previous years for this event. Dave commented that the event has not changed much over the years.

Expense/Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Director's Report provided as part of the agenda packet. Bob stated that \$5,000 was awarded from the Susquehanna Greenway for the NBCT. There will be a \$5,000 match requirement. This will not be coming from MARC's general fund.

Bob highlighted the progress that has been made on the NBCT. The land subdivision process has nearly finished in Mahoning Township; paperwork has been submitted in Cooper Township; this process will begin in Montour Township, Columbia County next week.

The trails are open at Hopewell Park and no hunter/rider conflicts have yet to take place.

The Danville Arts Council has also agreed to take over the Summer Concert Series.

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Motion made by Jerry Ward to approve these bills; seconded by Bill Hause; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

2015 River Town Race Series planning

There were no updates regarding this.

New Business:

Discussion of PPL Montour Preserve

Bob provided an overview on the presentation that he gave on Thursday in Washingtonville. Bob stated that he has had discussions with a number of potential partnering organizations, the Montour and Columbia County Commissioners, as well as volunteers and donators. Bob thinks there is strong local support to keep programming and land access available.

Many items regarding costs, etc. were brought up however many details are not yet known. These items will need to be hashed out in the future. It is not currently known how much MARC would potentially need to take over.

Dave Decoteau commented that similar situations have happened around the Commonwealth before and that MARC could follow these experiences as a guide. He compared it to Muddy Run near the Harrisburg area.

Jerry Ward commented that the Montour and Columbia County Commissioners are supportive of MARC and that they are hopeful that PPL continues to be a participating partner in this effort. He hopes that all MARC will be doing is coordinating educational programming, etc.

Tyler asked if Bob feels that he and MARC have the capacity to pursue this matter as things move forward. Jerry commented PPL will need to be a strong participant in this. Bob stated that other than a few hours of administration and discussions with PPL, this matter should not take much additional time/money to pursue.

Bob discussed the timeline of events regarding this process. He stated that sending his potential draft letter would happen immediately and talks with Teri MacBride would start. After this happens, it could potentially be in PPL's hands. Due to the time sensitive nature of some of the Preserve's programming, talks need to start as soon as possible.

Motion made by Jerry Ward to send a letter to PPL regarding MARC's future involvement at the Montour Preserve; seconded by Bill Hause; approved unanimously.

Other Items:

Karen Blackledge asked how people should get in contact with MARC to volunteer, etc. Bob stated that people should reference MARC's website.

Adjournment:

Frank Dombroski made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 pm; seconded by Joe Ward; carried unanimously.