

December 8, 2014 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Frank Dombroski
Bill Hause
Mike Mills
Bob Stoudt
Dave Walker

Public Attendees:

Will Carswell
Dave Decoteau
Jenn Kline
Gavin Noble
Kathleen Schumacher
Ralph Schumacher

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by President Mike Mills. With only four Board members in attendance, a quorum was not present, therefore no official business could be conducted. Stoudt will distribute action items to Board members via email for required votes.

PRESIDENT/TREASURER REPORT – Mike Mills:

The official accountant's reports from Ozark & Shultz were reviewed. No concerns or objections were raised. Stoudt noted that the \$3,500 reimbursement from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation (for North Branch Canal Trail expenses) was received on 12/5 and deposited into MARC's account on 12/8. MARC's account balance currently stands at \$19,132.96, of which \$2,767 is unrestricted. **Report recommended for full Board approval via email.**

SECRETARY REPORT – (presented by Mike Mills):

November 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed with no objections. **Report recommended for full Board approval via email.**

PARTNER REPORTS:

Washingtonville – No report.

Danville – Bill Hause noted the dusk to dawn lights at the Hess Field restrooms were not working correctly. Stoudt reported that the sensor had gotten water in it during a recent storm and it subsequently failed. Stoudt has purchased a replacement and will make the fix as soon as weather permits.

Bill Hause also requested that MARC consider assisting in some way with the quoits tournament, tennis tournament and Iron Heritage 5k race that have been part of the annual Iron Heritage Festival. Stoudt expressed concerns regarding potential costs and liabilities to MARC, but all agreed MARC would consider assisting if Stoudt's concerns could be addressed. Stoudt requested that Bill Hause ask the individuals currently involved with the activities to contact Stoudt to discuss options for 2015.

Bill Hause also noted that local residents continue to express a desire for a local dog park. Stoudt has fielded similar requests in the past and has worked with two individuals within the last year to two years to consider potential sites, maintenance and fundraising options. Stoudt has been unable to find a suitable location within the Borough and noted that potential volunteers have declined to pursue the project when the scope of work and fundraising became evident. Stoudt recommended MARC consider the option again in the future if a workable solution could be found.

Riverside – No report; no representatives present.

Montour County – No report; no elected representatives present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

DIRECTOR REPORT – (Bob Stoudt):

Stoudt's expense report of \$317.78 was reviewed with no objections. **Report recommended for full Board approval via email.**

Stoudt presented an overview of the Director's report distributed with the month's agenda packet. Discussion focused on two main topics:

- 1) Stoudt presented an update on the discussions with PPL regarding the maintenance of the East Branch Recreation Area. Stoudt presented cost estimates to PPL on 11/21. PPL is considering maintenance options and will contact MARC in the near future to finalize plans for 2015.
- 2) Stoudt discussed the ongoing maintenance of the mountain bike trails at the Hopewell Park/Danville Borough Farm property. Stoudt was pleased by the lack of significant user conflicts at the site to date and expressed thanks for the cooperation of all involved user groups. Stoudt noted several minor complaints had been made by hunters concerned by the new trails, but all complaints have been addressed to the extent possible. The trails are currently closed during the regular antlered and antlerless deer seasons. Stoudt discussed plans for 2015 and presented mapping of the proposed additional trails to be considered. MARC had intended to complete the trails in 2014, but ran out of time before the River Towns Cycling Classic races. Dave Decoteau provided a detailed description of the proposed trail connections. Hearing no objections from those Board members present, Stoudt will meet with Dan Knorr and other Danville Borough officials in coming weeks to discuss options for 2015 and prepare any permitting or other required documentation. If approved by Danville Borough, construction may begin in late spring/early summer 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

Montour Preserve – Stoudt presented a letter received from PPL on 11/24 concerning the programming and facilities at the Montour Preserve. PPL will allow MARC to conduct maple sugar programming at the Preserve in early 2015, using PPL's materials and facilities, if MARC is willing/able to do so. PPL restated its intention to maintain existing public access to the Montour Preserve for passive recreation, including the use of Lake Chillisquaque for boating and fishing, and use of hiking trails. PPL also wishes to further discuss with MARC other programming and facilities maintenance. Stoudt and Montour County Commissioner Trevor Finn are scheduled to meet with PPL representatives to continue these discussions. MARC and Montour County wish to see the Montour Preserve remain open to the public for recreation and special programming and will continue to discuss opportunities for MARC to work with PPL to meet the needs of all concerned parties.

Stoudt has consulted with MARC's insurer – PIRMA – and has received a quote of \$325/year in additional general liability insurance expense for the maple sugar programming. Stoudt also reported that MARC would likely incur up to an additional \$1,300 in workers' compensation insurance costs and approximately \$5,000 in labor expenses to conduct the programming. MARC will also incur other miscellaneous program expenses. In total, Stoudt estimates MARC will need to raise no less than \$7,500/year to fund this new expense. After discussion of potential fundraising options and the long-term viability of the Montour Preserve, it was recommended Stoudt be allowed to move forward with implementing the 2015 maple sugaring program and take steps as needed to raise the required funds. Stoudt must clearly convey the fact that MARC can only provide this programming if sufficient funds can be raised. **Action recommended for full Board approval via email.**

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

Part-time Hire – Stoudt presented a draft job description for an Assistant Director. This part-time hourly employee would be hired to fill the labor demand created by the maple sugar program, 2015 River Towns Race Series races and other anticipated tasks. Pending approval by Solicitor Marks’ office, Stoudt will immediately advertise this position with the intention of hiring in January 2015. **Action recommended for full Board approval via email.**

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation Montour Preserve Pass-Through Fund – Stoudt recommends the establishment of a second pass-through fund at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation specifically intended to hold funds raised for programming and other needs at the Montour Preserve. A copy of the agreement was provided in this month’s agenda packet. If approved, Stoudt and Mills will sign on MARC’s behalf. **Action recommended for full Board approval via email.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Meeting Schedule – Stoudt recommends MARC continue to meet at 7:00pm on the second Monday of each month, excluding July. Meetings will continue to be held in the Danville Borough building, subject to the Borough’s continued approval. Stoudt will contact Dan Knorr to formally request continued permission and will advertise as required. MARC’s 2015 meeting schedule will be as follows:

- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 8
- NO JULY MEETING
- August 10
- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14

Action recommended for full Board approval via email.

Other Items:

Ozark & Shultz contract renewal – The contract rate for monthly accounting services in 2015 will rise to \$60/month, up from \$50/month (unchanged since September 2011). Stoudt recommends approval. **Action recommended for full Board approval via email.**

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Stoudt