

June 2015 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Jon Beam

Will Carswell

Frank Dombroski

Tyler Dombroski

Bill Hause

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Dave Walker

Jerry Ward

Joe Ward

Public:

Karen Blackledge

Heather Good

Nick Jones

Jenn Kline

Ken Mertz

Ralph Schumacher

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mike Mills.

President/Treasurer Report – Mike Mills:

Mike provided a copy of the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Jerry Ward to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously

Resignation of Riverside Borough Representative Mike Maize

Mike Maize has indicated to the board that he is no longer able to fulfill his position as the Borough of Riverside's MARC representative. Motion made by Jerry Ward to accept Mike's resignation; seconded by

Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously. Bob indicated he would send Mike a thank you letter for his service as a board member.

Appointment of Danville Borough representative Will Carswell

Will has expressed interested at prior meetings in serving as a board member representation the Borough of Danville. The Borough has since approved his appointment. Motion made by Jerry Ward to accept Will's appointment onto the board; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Tyler provided an overview of the previous month's minutes. Motion made by Bill Hause to accept the Secretary's Report; seconded by Joe Ward; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Tyler reported that Borough Council executed two agreements (one with PPL to hang banners on electric poles, a second with PennDOT to plant a garden at the intersection of PA Route 54 and Strawberry Ridge Road) at its June Borough Council meeting. Bob also added that he read in the Danville News that the Borough had passed a property maintenance ordinance at its June meeting. Tyler and Frank both confirmed this.

Danville – Bill Hause and Will Carswell declined to make a report.

Riverside – No reported; no elected representatives present.

Montour County – Jerry Ward declined to make a report.

Danville Area School District – Chris reported that the Kid's Marathon was starting and would continue until August 8. Chris also provided donations to the Montour Preserve 2015-2016 lease fund in the amount of about \$1,600. These funds were raised by students and faculty of the school district.

Public Comment:

Ralph reported that his rugby event did take place at the end of May. Turnout was less this year than in other years.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon reported that he has been giving biweekly reports to SECV8 News. He also stated that he had done some maintenance work at the Hopewell Park kiosk and one of the blinds near Hess Field. Jon has also continued to assist with Montour Preserve needs as they come up. Jon reported that he worked at the Robbins Run race as well as with students from Lyte Elementary School.

Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Director's report provided as part of the agenda packet. Bob added to his report that a recent Boy Scout project added six new ADA accessible tables and a repainted handicap parking area down at the Hess Field pavilion.

Bob also added to his report that the Bloomsburg Town Council received no response to its Request for Proposal for kayak rentals at Town Park. The Borough of Berwick is also interested in putting together a similar program.

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Bob stated that he worked way more than anticipated for the month of May due to the Montour Preserve which has caused his work hours to be inflated more than they otherwise would be. Motion made by Chris Johns to approve these bills; seconded by Joe Ward; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Montour Preserve lease

Bob reported that about \$111,000 had been raised for the 2015-2016 lease (176 donors as of his report). Bob also stated he created the website: montourpreserve.org. This website will be used for information, reservations, etc. The site is still currently under construction but will be able to go live soon.

Regarding terms of the lease with Talen Energy, Bob reported that he has a draft in hand but not a finalized version. Some items needed to be included into the lease which were not originally anticipated. One of those items was that Talen wants MARC to pay real estate taxes on the leased land. To minimize costs, MARC will only manage "active areas." For instance, MARC will only mow 22.2 acres instead of 122. This will save roughly \$20,000. Bob also reported that necessary liability insurance for MARC's lease will only be about half of what was originally anticipated. Jerry Ward also suggested Bob work with Anthony Township and/or Montour County regarding winter road maintenance needs to cut costs.

Talen also wants MARC to maintain the education center which was also not originally anticipated. This will cost MARC an extra \$35,000 roughly. Bob reported that the house next to the education center is not a part of our deal. Bill Hause questioned what the future of that building will be to which Bob reported it is "uncertain." At this time, Bob feels MARC will need about \$117,700 for the 2015-2016 Montour Preserve lease.

Bob stated that he would pass on the final Montour Preserve lease to the board members for email vote approval once it has been finalized. If members of the board have a lot of questions, a special meeting could be called.

2016 River Towns Marathon planning

Numerous board members expressed their feelings that cutting the full marathon from the 2016 schedule would save RTRS costs.

Motion made by Jerry Ward to discontinue the Marathon for 2016; seconded by Mike Mills; approved unanimously.

New Business:

Montour Preserve mowing & garden care request for bids

Since negotiations between MARC and Talen continue to progress, Talen will continue to maintain the grounds at the preserve until a deal has been finalized. Unfortunately, the board cannot take a vote regarding mowing at the preserve until the lease has been finalized. Bob stated using Big Pop's Mowing, MARC's 2015 mowing provider, would likely be the easiest route to go once finalized.

Montour Preserve restroom/facility cleaning

Bob stated that using Candy Fisher, the current facility cleaner would be his recommended course of action. Again, MARC cannot approve the use of her services until the lease has been finalized.

Request for part-time seasonal employee hire for Montour Preserve

Bob reported that a minimum wage, summer employee is needed to do basic work around the preserve. Action cannot take place until the lease is finalized.

Approval to request reimbursement from CSCF fund for maple sugaring

Motion made by Jerry Ward to reimburse from the CSCF fund for the maple sugaring program; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Other Items:

Williams Transco Pipeline Atlantic Sunrise Project / The Conservation Fund Environmental Stewardship Program grant announcement

Trish Crothers, director of the Susquehanna Greenway, reported to Bob that MARC will receive a \$146,000 to install bridges and culverts on the NBCT. MARC does not need to provide matching funds.

Child Abuse clearances for Stoudt and Beam

Bob reported that both he and Jon will need to get their child abuse certifications due to the degree that they work with youth.

Adjournment:

Bob stated that he would be on vacation from June 14-June 20.

Motion made by Frank Dombroski to adjourn; seconded by Jerry Ward; approved unanimously.

Adjournment took place at 7:55 pm.