

November 2015 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Tyler Dombroski

Frank Dombroski

Heather Good

Jamie Hosterman

Chris Johns

Bill Lavage

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Dave Walker

Joe Ward

Jerry Ward

Public:

Lloyd Bunch

Chris Hall

Katie Hess

Ken Holdren

Dustin Hosterman

Jenn Kline

Gary Lewis

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

President/Treasurer Report – Mike Mills:

Remembrance of Bill Hause

Mike and Bob gave a tribute to Bill Hause who recently passed away. Bob stated a new representative from the Borough will need to be appointed.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Bob provided an accounts payable statement from Big Pop's Mowing in the amount of \$2,031. Motion made by Tyler Dombroski to approve payment of this bill; seconded by Dave Walker; approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Tyler noticed a small typo during his Secretary's Report which will require an alteration.

Motion made by to Jerry Ward accept the Secretary's Report upon correction of the typo; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Tyler stated that the PA One Call for the borough's "welcome to the community" signs has been completed. Frank stated that he would be picking up the materials to install the signs soon.

Danville – No representatives from the borough were present to make a report.

Riverside – Bill Lavage declined to make a report.

Montour County – Jerry Ward stated that he has had ongoing discussions with Bob regarding the TAP grant program for the NBCT. Jerry stated that match funding would be required. Jerry and Bob explained that this work for the grant could be done in phases. This decision making regarding pursuit of this grant will be up to the incoming county commissioners.

Danville Area School District – Jamie Hosterman stated that he will not be able to continue his membership on the MARC Board after the December meeting.

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon reported via email that he shifted materials and supplies from Talen Energy to MARC. He also helped move the fishing pier and boat dock to its winter location and winterized the water systems of the picnic area. Restrooms were cleaned and trash was also collected. Various educational programs were also conducted. He also worked with the SCORE group to recruit volunteers. He also talked with Don Jacobs of WNEP about a "Power to Save" feature.

Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Director's report provided as part of the agenda packet.

Bob stated he purchased a printer for MARC. Congratulations Bob.

Bob also stated that a tire culvert system needed to be replaced at Hopewell Park due to the Borough of Danville's request. A wooden foot bridge has since been installed.

Bob stated that he and Jon were quite consumed with the Montour Preserve over the past month. Bob also provided everyone with the copies of the new brochures at the preserve. He also gave an overview of how the presentation that he and Jon conducted went. The Montour Preserve was also used as a staging area for the blimp incident for that received national exposure. A number of donations have been received in honor of Bill Hause as well as a \$1,000 donation from Anthony Township.

Oliver Kelly, a county resident, reported that the MARC website had been hacked. This situation has since been rectified.

Bob reported that petty vandalism seems to be routinely occurring at Hess Field.

Bob also reported that a property owner along the NBCT has concerns that the trail is illegally being used to access hunting grounds.

Bob provided a draft RTRS schedule for 2016. He also provided an update on how the DACC 5k went. Attendance was significantly lower than normal. Bill noted that the United Way Turkey Trot was the same day.

Three Eagle Scouts have reported interest in working with the MARC for projects.

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

Old Business:

Accounting categorization and reporting

Bob stated that he was unable to have a meeting with Ozark and Shultz to have NBCT revenues/expenses separated. This should be accomplished by December.

NBCT bridge engineering

Tyler provided a template request for proposals for engineering services to Bob for this engineering work. This request for proposals should be completed by December.

New Business:

Montour Preserve fundraising strategy

Bob asked for funding strategy ideas concerning the Montour Preserve.

He suggested a mailing campaign to local area zip codes to solicit donations. Tyler inquired about bulk mailing costs need to do an outreach such as this. The Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau routinely does outreaches such as these. Bob was to discuss this strategy with the Visitors Bureau and email more information to the board about this.

The Danville News and Press Enterprise have both provided media coverage about this ongoing need for significant funding. The Facebook page also continues to receive hits although funds are not being received like they were earlier this year.

To date, Bob has not had much luck with local foundations. The Degenstein Foundation had been in contact with MARC before about funding. They were to contact MARC back about this if they were interested in assisting us. Unfortunately, our point of contact was tragically killed in a plane crash earlier this year. Ken Holdren stated that he would make an outreach to a gentleman he knows from Geisinger who is on the board.

Bob stated that our local state representatives continue to fight on our behalf. However, the state budget impasse continues to make things difficult. DCNR has not made a visit to the Preserve.

Jerry Ward suggested that Bob attend all future Montour and Columbia County Commissioners meetings moving forward to stress the urgency of our situation.

Ken Holdren suggested instituting user fees for school districts wanting to visit the preserve. Jamie did not think this would be a good idea and would likely turn institutions away. Donations will likely need to be the continued way to go (for instance, through Home and School Associations).

Tyler inquired about investment options for excess funds in attempt to generate additional revenues. Bob stated that the CSCF manages these funds on MARC's behalf in an attempt to incur interest.

Bill suggested soliciting commitments from area groups for fixed annual donations over a certain period of years.

Draft RTRS Schedule

Bob reviewed his draft schedule. Bob proposed a number of additional Montour Preserve races. Bob's logic was to promote interest in the preserve and generate revenues. Jenn Kline suggested some date changes due to other occurring races in the region.

Jerry questioned about the number of preserve races due to challenges other RTRS races have had in the past. Bob stated that because MARC controls the property

1. Permits wouldn't be needed;

2. Additional insurance would not be needed;
3. Bathrooms are already available; and
4. Volunteers needed would be minimal, etc.

Dave reiterated these thoughts. The board was satisfied with these insights.

Mike suggested still closing registrations for t-shirts 30 days in advance of race days. Bob suggested keeping registrations open up to four days in advance of RTRS races based on the ability of our timing company to still adequately process registrations. This discussion will be ongoing in the future.

Other Items:

10th Anniversary Get-Together

Bob inquired about having a potluck dinner at the Montour Preserve in December. Mike suggested having this event the same day as the RTRS ceremony on January 9th. This will be our tentative date.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Dave Walker to adjourn; seconded by Jerry Ward; approved unanimously.

Adjournment took place at 8:14 pm.