

February 13, 2017 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Frank Dombroski
Tyler Dombroski
Commissioner Ken Holdren
Chris Johns
Dr. Victor Marks
Mike Mills
Bill Lavage
Heather Good
Dave Walker

Bob Stoudt
Denny Piatt

Public:

Lloyd Bunch, Dave Decoteau, Elijah Evans, Ralph Schumacher, Kathy Schumacher

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

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Holdren noted the Montour County Act 13 is not yet approved. He also noted that Ozark & Shultz contract will be renewed, pending fees. Motion to approve by Bill Lavage, 2nd by Dave Walker. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

President Mills noted the January meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Bill Lavage, 2nd by Dr. Marks. Motion passed unanimously.

PARTNER REPORTS

Washingtonville Borough

Bob noted that he received a letter from Washingtonville Borough with a donation to MARC for \$250.00.

Danville Borough

Nothing new to report.

Riverside Borough

Bill noted that the goal was to have the boat launch completed and signage completed by the spring.

Montour County

Commissioner Holdren noted that the Commissioners released \$10,000 through the Visitors Bureau funds. Bob noted he had not yet received the money. Commissioner Holdren noted how the next steps are to be taken with regards to the landowner dispute along the North Branch Canal Trail. Bob and Greg Molter will pay a visit to the landowner for a discussion.

Danville Area School District

Chris Johns discussed how their will be an agenda item at the 2/14/17 DASD monthly board meeting to establish an Outdoor and Trails Club at the district with the purpose to establish a partnership with MARC and the district. This partnership would allow for students to participate in the proposed mountain biking team being established by Dave Decoteau and several volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Schumacher announced how he will again being be organizing a Rugby Football Classic event to be held in May.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

President Mills noted the Assistant Director's report in the agenda packet. Bob also noted how successful the Wildlife Art Expo and it appears to be something that may be successful in the future. Maple Sugar season begins within the next few weeks.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Denny Piatt supplemented the Maintenance Technician's report in the agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Montour County Commissioners' 2017 Tourism Fund grant application -- Application submitted 1/19/17 for \$10,000 to support 2017 River Towns Race Series advertising and promotion

DCNR 'Other Parks' Grant (Montour Preserve) -- Preliminary paperwork approved

- Final grant agreement and request for initial payment to be submitted 2/9
- \$90,000 in funding anticipated within 2 – 3 weeks
- Final \$10,000 payment will be released to MARC upon successful completion of the year-end performance audit

River Drive parcel (North Branch Canal Trail trailhead and river access) (no change since last meeting)

- Additional site enhancements will be done in coming months as schedule and funding permits

North Branch Canal Trail (no change since last meeting)

- Trail miles 0.0 through 3.5 are open for public use
- Trail miles 3.5 – 3.9 remain closed due to adjacent landowner conflict, pending guidance from Montour County
- Trail miles 3.9 – 6.2 in Columbia County remain closed until land transfer is complete

Hopewell Park / Danville Borough Farm

- The orienteering course designed and installed by Eagle Scout Goody McCormick of Boy Scout Troop 50 in Buckhorn is now complete; mapping has been added to MARC's website (copy provided on page 19 of this agenda packet)
- New trail signage is being designed for installation by a likely Eagle Scout candidate, anticipated spring/summer 2017

Montour Preserve

- Maple sugaring open houses are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25 and Sunday, March 5
- Several school group visits have also been scheduled during week days

NEW BUSINESS

Hopewell Park Bike/Jump Skills Area Proposal

Bob gave a background and update on the Hopewell Park gazebo location. Dave Decoteau gave a presentation that included proposal for a mountain bike skills park at the base of the Hopewell Trail network. MARC would be supportive of the permitting process and would be part of the conversation between any conflicting parties. In conjunction with a potential mountain biking partnership with the school district, this would be another potential use of the park. Several potential barriers were discussed and the MARC board is generally in support of the project. The next steps will include doing more research. There will be an update at the March meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

Anticipated Part-Time Maintenance Technician

Bob discussed the need for a part-time (seasonal) maintenance technician. The need was identified as taking place between May and September. Bob will provide further information at the March board meeting. No action needed.

It was noted that Bob was recently awarded the "Buddy" Award by the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau. Commissioner Holdren gave further background on past winners and commended his hard work. Specifically, Bob provided a GPS component for the Covered Bridges Festival.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mills adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher D. Johns
MARC Board Secretary
2/13/17