

# **November 13, 2017 MARC Meeting Minutes**

## **MARC Attendees:**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Dr. Victor Marks  
Mike Mills  
Frank Dombroski  
Commissioner Ken Holdren  
Bill Lavage  
Greg Kovalick  
Kevin Herritt  
Dave Walker  
Tyler Dombroski

### **STAFF**

Bob Stoudt  
Dennis Piatt

### **Public:**

Lloyd Bunch  
Dave Decoteau  
Fred Gaffney  
Rex Hepner (Treasurer, Danville Lady Railers)  
Jason Jones (President, Danville Lady Railers)

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

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **Chairman's Report**

Mike Mills deferred his report to allow visitors from the Danville Lady Railers to address the board.

### **Hess Recreation Area Maintenance Planning / Danville Lady Railers Proposal (on agenda under old and new business)**

Stoudt introduced Rex Hepner and Jason Jones from the Danville Lady Railers. Mr. Jones described the league's proposed use of the Hess Recreation Area. The league proposes to maintain, at its expense, the softball and old baseball fields, including repairing the backstop fencing and dugouts. The league would also repair and maintain the dirt infields for both fields. In return, MARC would allow the league's use of the fields at no charge and would continue to maintain all other portions of the site. In order to ensure that the league's efforts at the park would be worth the investment, the league requests a multi-year agreement. Stoudt noted that the Hess Recreation Area is owned by the Borough of Danville and leased to the Montour County Recreation Authority, which in turn entered into an agreement with MARC to operate and maintain the park. A multi-year agreement with the Danville Lady Railers would require a sub-lease agreement, requiring the approval of the Borough of Danville. After questions, Commissioner Holdren made a motion to allow Stoudt to work with the Borough of Danville and the Danville Lady Railers to draft such a sub-lease agreement, subject to final approval by all concerned parties. Motion seconded by Frank Dombroski; motion approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Holdren provided an overview of the reports provided in the meeting agenda packet and the official accountant's reports submitted by Ozark & Shultz. The accountant's reports contain two known errors that need to be corrected before approval. The report was tabled until the December meeting.

### **Secretary's Report**

Chairman Mills noted the minutes of the October meeting as recorded by Stoudt. Motion to approve by Commissioner Holdren, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Marks. Motion approved unanimously.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### **Washingtonville Borough**

Nothing to report.

### **Danville Borough**

Kevin Herritt had nothing to report. Greg Kovalick apologized for missing a number of recent meetings, but reaffirmed his desire to remain active with the organization.

### **Riverside Borough**

Nothing to report.

### **Montour County**

Commissioner Holdren reported that the required legal notice had been physically posted on the property of the North Branch Canal Trail adjacent landowner.

### **Danville Area School District**

No representatives in attendance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Decoteau provided an update on the Hammers Interscholastic Mountain Biking Team. The team exceeded all expectations in its first season and was considered a success. Decoteau thanked MARC and the Danville Area School District for supporting the team and noted that more information about the team could be found on the website [www.HammersMTB.com](http://www.HammersMTB.com). Commissioner Holdren commended the many volunteers who assisted with the creation and supervision of the team and made special note of the volunteer and financial support of the Central Susquehanna Valley Board of Realtors in creating the bike jumps area at Hopewell Park.

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Chairman Mills noted the Assistant Director's report in the agenda packet.

## **MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT**

Denny Piatt noted the highlights of his report in the agenda packet. Denny noted the plans for winterization at the Preserve.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Stoudt noted highlights of the report in the agenda packet, particularly noting recent reports of trespassing onto Danville Borough lands near Hopewell Park and MARC's efforts to assist with the search for a missing individual along the North Branch Susquehanna River.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hess Recreation Area Maintenance Planning**

Item discussed earlier in the meeting after Chairman's report.

### **2018 River Towns Race Series**

Stoudt noted the proposed details of the 2018 River Towns Race Series, provided on page 22 of the meeting agenda packet. Tyler Dombroski asked about past attendance figures and attendance trends. Dave Walker questioned whether it made sense to continue to market the races as a series. Dave Decoteau, from the public, shared Dave Walker's sentiments. After considerable discussion, Bill Lavage made a motion to approve the 2018 River Towns Race Series as outlined by Stoudt. Dr. Marks seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

### **2017 Budget Update / 2018 Budget Preparation**

Stoudt provided updated year-to-date budget figures as presented on page 14 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted disappointing revenues from the River Towns Race Series and less than anticipated revenues from several other sources. After discussion, it was determined that no board action was required. Stoudt will begin to prepare the 2018 budget, using the 2017 figures as a guide.

### **Montour Preserve Lease Agreement Renewal**

Stoudt requested board action to formally approve a one-year extension of the Montour Preserve lease with Montour, LLC (Talen Energy). Motion by Commissioner Holdren; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Herritt. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Seasonal Maintenance Technician Employment Status**

Stoudt recommended the retention of Seasonal Maintenance Technician Connor Durkin, whose term of employment was scheduled to end on October 13 unless otherwise decided by MARC. Maintenance Technician Dennis Piatt concurred. After brief discussion, it was determined that no board action was required and Stoudt's recommendation would stand.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Removal of Danville Borough Representative Greg Kovalick**

Item withdrawn from consideration.

### **Danville Lady Railers proposed agreement for Hess Recreation Area field maintenance**

Item discussed earlier in the meeting after Chairman's report.

### **PA Master Naturalist contract renewal**

Stoudt presented the proposed extension to the PA Master Naturalist contract. Stoudt and Beam recommend renewal of the contract as discussed at the October meeting. Motion by Dr. Marks to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Dombroski. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Proposed mowing changes at Hopewell Park and Montour Preserve**

Stoudt presented a proposal to convert portions of the mowed areas at Hopewell Park and the Montour Preserve to wildflower meadows, similar to what has been proposed at the Hess Recreation Area. Doing so will help MARC reduce its maintenance expenses at each property by significantly reducing the required maintenance for select areas that are essentially unused. The wildflower meadows will provide benefits to wildlife and attractive areas for park visitors. However, Stoudt cautioned that the work could only be completed if grants, donations or other funding could be secured to complete the work. Stoudt requested permission to explore costs and possible funding sources to convert a total of approximately five acres of grass at Hess, Hopewell and the Montour Preserve in the spring of 2018. Motion by Tyler Dombroski to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Walker. Motion approved unanimously.

### **2018 meeting schedule and location**

Stoudt presented the results of a survey of board members regarding preferred meeting dates and times for 2018. After much discussion, it was agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm would be the best option for the majority of board members. After additional discussion, it was agreed that it would be more convenient to move the meetings closer to Danville, perhaps improving attendance rates. A request was made of Commissioner Holdren to determine if meetings might be held at a Montour County facility, perhaps the DRIVE conference room on Woodbine Lane. Commissioner Holdren agreed to determine whether that might be possible. Motion by Bill Lavage to move MARC's regular meetings to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the DRIVE conference room if available; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tyler Dombroski. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Proposed update of MARC Intergovernmental Agreement of Cooperation**

Stoudt presented a review of MARC's existing Intergovernmental Agreement of Cooperation and discussed several items of recent concern, including the current inability of board members to participate by telephone or video conference. Stoudt also discussed the significant amount of outdated and no longer applicable language in the existing agreement, particularly regarding the Circuit Rider position and mandatory per-capita fees. In order to address all known items of concern, Stoudt has drafted a new agreement for review and edit by the board. Both the existing and proposed new agreements were provided in the meeting agenda packet.

Because of the lateness of the hour and the expected length of discussion for this topic, Commissioner Holdren requested to table the discussion until the December meeting. Chairman Mills concurred and the item was tabled until the December meeting.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **Hess Recreation Area dumping incidents and fire**

Stoudt presented a brief overview of three recent incidents at the Hess Recreation Area. Two cases of dumping and one fire were discovered and reported to the Mahoning Township Police Department. In the case of the fire (a couch was burned in the skatepark fire pit), the East End Fire Company was dispatched. Stoudt and Mahoning Township Police have identified suspects in all three incidents and all applicable charges will be filed with a request for restitution and community service if possible.

### **Hopewell Park signage installation**

Stoudt reported that Eagle Scout candidate Spencer Snowden will be installing trail signage at the Hopewell Park / Danville Borough Farm Mountain Bike Trail System on November 22 and 24. Examples of sign designs were included in the meeting agenda packet.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mills adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Stoudt



Director / acting Secretary  
11/13/17