

May 2014 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Frank Dombroski

Tyler Dombroski

Bill Hause

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Jerry Ward

Public:

Lizzy Bassett

Dave Decoteau

Mark Hilkert

Abby Raup

Ralph Schumacher

Dave Walker

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Mike Mills.

President's/Treasurer's Report – Mike Mills:

The Board started the meeting by accepting Lisa Tulino's resignation. Motion made by Jerry Ward to accept the resignation; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Mike reviewed the treasurer's report from April. Motion made by Frank Dombroski to accept the report; seconded by Jerry Ward; approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Motion made Joe Ward to accept the minutes; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Frank Dombroski commented that the little league field and playground was being used heavily. The little league has also installed security cameras at the field.

Danville – Bill Hause stated that activity at the Hess Field, FQ Hartman, recent races, and other events has been great. Jerry added how great the relationship between Danville and MARC has been in recent years.

Riverside – No representatives from the Borough of Riverside were present.

Montour County – Jerry Ward declined to make a report.

Danville Area School District – No members of DASD were present at the meeting.

Public Comment:

Ralph Schumacher asked about dropping off rugby equipment at Hess Field for his May 24th tournament. Bob stated that it was ok on the condition that Ralph assumes all risks regarding vandalism or theft. Ralph accepted these risks if he were to leave his equipment there. Ralph also inquired about digging temporary holes. Bob said it was okay as long as they were filled in.

Dave Walker gave an updated report about the Montour 24 race. Dave stated that he has received some registrations but has not done much advertising. At this point, Dave is stating that the race is about breaking even.

Event's Manager Report – Dave Decoteau:

Dave discussed the continued growth of the RTRS Facebook page. Recent views due to the Marathon/Half-Marathon reached an all-time high.

Dave also highlighted the Marathon/Half-Marathon. Dave commented that having themed water stations went over well. The top negative was probably not having food at the end of the race.

Dave commented that Robbins Run registrations were ahead of last year.

Dave finished by giving a progress update on the River Towns Cycling Classic.

Bob added that additional trail work needs to be done where MARC has the agreement with the Borough of Danville. Dave commented about different ideas that he has at the Hopewell Park location. Jerry would like to see more activity there for ice skating during the winter. Jerry thinks Dave's ideas need to go before a County Commissioners meeting before anything major goes forward. This area would likely be maintained by MARC in the future.

Expense/Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Bob commented that increased trash needs at the Hess Field will require MARC to obtain additional trash collection services.

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Motion made by Jerry Ward to accept the report; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Bob brought three bills to the Board's attention that were over \$500. Motion made by Jerry Ward to approve these bills; seconded by Bill Hause; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

North Branch Canal Trail land subdivision

The Mahoning Township Subdivision Board reviewed the NBCT and it is likely that the Supervisors will approve the project. Montour County would then own the Township's section of the Trail.

North Branch Canal Trail adjacent landowner legal dispute

There is a dispute regarding the Fikes' campsite that is within the area that has been subdivided to the NBCT by SEDA-COG's Joint Rail Authority. Bob has met with the Fike family regarding this issue. MARC has committed to honoring the agreement proposed by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority in 2012. Bob stated that this area has been the Fikes' camping area for years and the land is not needed by MARC for the trail. Certain permitting and ordinance issues would need to be handled when an official transfer would take place.

Bob has also been in regular contact the owner of the 'Bear Hunter's Campground' who disputes that the border line of her property and the NBCT. This property owner has contacted the State Police twice. Bob has been in contact with Solicitor Marks about this issue. Montour County will not take legal action against this person. Bob stated that he will work with Solicitor Marks to draft a certified letter to this individual regarding this issue to continue work. The Board will review the letter upon completion for approval. Currently, MARC will not do any land clearing in this area.

Bob also did a walk through with members of the Catawissa Boat Club. Some of their members are Cooper Township Supervisors who have talked with the owner of 'Bear Hunter's Campground.'

MARC strategic plan/capital campaign

Bob stated that he has been working on the draft of this document. He wants to wait for all official NBCT paperwork to be finished to finish this process.

New Business:

2015 River Towns Marathon/Half Marathon planning

Bob stated that early registration costs for the half marathon should go up by \$5 for next year. Other registration fees will remain unchanged. Questions were raised about future use of the old railroad bridge between Catawissa and Bloomsburg.

Use of Central Susquehanna Community Foundation funds

Bob stated that MARC received a \$3,000 donation for the NBCT. Service 1st and FNB Bank have also expressed interest in potentially making donations. The account balance is currently \$7,674.78.

Bucknell University Engineering design for North Branch Canal Trail bridge

Bob stated that this proposal was done so that it could be completed cheaply and by volunteers. Rip wrapping of the stream was included in the proposal. Consideration of small sized vehicles for construction was also included. The estimated cost was \$33,200. This is the biggest, most expensive bridge on the trail.

Merck Neighbors of Choice Grant application

Bob stated that MARC would be putting in a \$10,000 grant application for the NBCT due by May 31, 2014.

Adjournment:

Frank Dombroski made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm; seconded by Jerry Ward; carried unanimously.