

May 2015 MARC Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Jon Beam
Frank Dombroski
Tyler Dombroski
Chris Johns
Jamie Hosterman
Mike Mills
Bob Stoudt
Dave Walker
Jerry Ward

PUBLIC:

Commissioner Trevor Finn
Dawson Hosterman
Harold Hurst
Heather Good
Jennifer Kline
Ken Mertz
Ralph Schumacher

MEDIA:

Chris Krepich
Karen Blackledge
Chris O'Rourke

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

President's/Treasurer's 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 Chris Johns; approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

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

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Frank reported that he had left Wes Fahringer of DCNR a message pertaining to ADA compliance of park facilities. Tyler also provided an update regarding other various community beautification initiatives.

Danville – no elected representatives present. Bob did read a report provided via email by Dan Knorr, including:

- 1) The Borough has submitted a PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application for the funding of a Downtown Park/Greenway Master Site Plan that would include Canal Park, the Doc's Parcel and the alley bisecting these tracts. Award decisions will be made by the state in September.

2) The Riverfront Park Fountain Committee is essentially down to only two volunteers. As such, the Borough has agreed to take over their maintenance and cleaning responsibilities relating to the fountain. In exchange, the committee will transfer their remaining funds of approximately \$9,000 to the Borough. We will keep these in a separate line item only to be used for fountain-related expenses.

3) A bald eagle's nest has been located in the woods near F.Q. Hartman, and the Borough gave permission to the Game Commission to post signage in the area regarding bald eagle etiquette.

Riverside – No report; no elected representatives present.

Montour County – Jerry Ward declined to make a report, pending discussion of the Montour Preserve and River Towns Marathon.

Danville Area School District – Chris Johns reported on the Kids' Marathon that is to take place in June - August at the Danville Middle School. Bob provided further details on this annual event.

Public Comment:

Ralph commented his rugby event will take place on May 30, 2015 instead of the original May 23, 2015. Ralph stated that this year's event will be in honor of his father, a World War II veteran.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon Beam reported on work he has conducted regarding the NBCT as well as education programming that he has worked on.

Expense/Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

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

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Motion made by Frank Dombroski to approve these bills; seconded by Chris Johns; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Montour Preserve maintenance

The Montour County Commissioners provided a letter received from PPL today regarding continued operation of the Montour Preserve. Effective June 1, 2015, Talen Energy will exist as a corporation and as such, their new budget will initiate.

Based on John's past experience and Bob's financial expertise, two budget projections have been created. The first budget includes operation of the environmental education center and visitors' center. The second budget does not.

Both projected budgets were provided as a part of the evening's agenda packet. Both budgets are not nearly as large financially as Bob initially thought because Talen has agreed to take on certain duties according to their letter to the commissioners. Bob stated that there are a lot of painful cuts that could be made however the budgets would not be able to be decreased by much. Bob stated that routine maintenance grants are currently not available.

Jerry stated his support for working with educational and other regional entities to attempt to find what funding sources and donations are available. Frank reiterated this support as well as Harold Hurst and Trevor Finn. Mike Mills asked if there was the potential of extending this June 1 deadline. Bob stated that there is not.

Frank inquired about the tax status of the Montour Preserve. Trevor Finn believes that whole complex is currently taxed as any other normal parcel of land.

Bob did state that If Talen ceases operations at the Montour Preserve, the lake will be required to be removed. Bob stated that if MARC can no longer maintain the facilities at Montour Preserve, MARC would not be responsibility to remove the facilities such as the dam, bathrooms, pavilion, etc.

Harold Hurst inquired about yearly attendance at the preserve. Jon Beam stated that 3,000-5,000 students visit the preserve per year with 150,000-200,000 total visitors.

Tyler inquired whether Sportsman Road would be closed in the future. Jon Beam stated that the road is a township road.

Trevor suggested purchasing a long term lease to fund operations at the Preserve. The Montour County Senior Center was funded this way.

Tyler asked if there are any consequences to attempt to find funding sources by June 1st if enough funds cannot be secured. Bob stated there would not be other than time and effort.

Motion made by Jamie Hosterman to approve soliciting donations to fund MARC's potential future operation of the Montour Preserve; seconded by Frank Dombroski; approved unanimously.

New Business:

River Towns Race Series website hack; MePush service and hosting

Bob reported that the RTRS website was hacked. MePush was used for to fix the damages before the Marathon/Half Marathon took place. Bob has since continued to fix the remaining website issues.

Motion made by Chris Johns to approve using MePush for monthly website hosting and maintenance; seconded by Dave Walker; approved unanimously.

2016 River Towns Marathon planning

Bob and John figured out how to make the Marathon happen despite limited volunteers and an event manager. Bob stated he would like to open the half-marathon registration tomorrow with the full next month.

Jerry stated he thinks the Marathon should be discontinued for 2016 due to the need for volunteers and effort. Dave Walker reiterated the same sentiments especially due to continued low runner turnout. Mike suggested tabling a decision on discontinuing this event until the June 2015 meeting. Mike asked if we had tried making this a Boston Marathon qualifier. Bob stated we had in the past.

Other Items:

Washingtonville Community Beautification Initiative

Tyler covered this previously during the Washingtonville Borough report.

Pine Barn Inn discount rate for MARC/RTRS events

MARC/RTRS now has a preferred hotel, the Pine Barn Inn. There will be a 20% discount for lodging.

Bloomsburg bicycle and watercraft vendor request for proposals

The Bloomsburg Town Council voted to approve putting out an RFP for bicycle and watercraft vendor rentals. The RFP has been posted on numerous websites.

Adjournment:

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

Adjournment took place at 8:19 pm.