

May 8, 2017 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Bill Lavage
Frank Dombroski
Heather Good
Dave Walker
Kevin Herritt
Mike Mills
Chris Johns (arrived at 7:40pm)
Bob Stoudt

Public:

Nate Cole
Sam Chillis
Lloyd Bunch
Ralph and Kathy Schumacher

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Mike Mills.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Mike Mills noted the lack of a quorum to start the meeting. Moved to discussion of non-action items instead.

PARTNER REPORTS

Washingtonville Borough

Frank Dombroski noted that the recent Borough cleanup was a success. Ballfields, playground, the PA-54 traffic island and the DeLong Memorial Hall were cleaned up by volunteers and a community-wide trash cleanup was held. The second round of 'Welcome to Washingtonville' banners are being revised and will be hung soon.

Danville Borough

Kevin noted the recent progress on the Canal Park project, in conjunction with the Danville Business Alliance. Initial estimates of roughly \$500,000 have been put forward, subject to anticipated revisions. The project could include tiered seating, covered stage and other amenities.

Riverside Borough

Stoudt noted that the new river access signage is in hand. Installation is anticipated this month.

Montour County

Documentation is in hand regarding the adjacent landowner dispute along the North Branch Canal Trail. Stoudt anticipates action on this front in the next week to two weeks.

Danville Area School District

No representatives present at time of report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lloyd Bunch noted the recent heavy rains and the impact on Lake Chillisquaue. The lake levels have been lowered to accommodate future heavy rain events.

Ralph Schumacher noted the upcoming Schumacher Rugby Classic at the Hess Recreation Area.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Mills noted highlights of Jon Beam's report in the meeting agenda packet.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Mike Mills noted highlights of Dennis Piatt's report in the meeting agenda packet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt noted highlights of his report in the agenda packet, specifically noting recent developments with the East Branch Recreation Area lease agreement. Though the lease expired on April 30, Stoudt anticipates that Talen Energy will choose to extend the lease. A recent staffing change at Talen Energy has led to delays.

OLD BUSINESS

MARC Employee Handbook

Stoudt noted the recent development of a MARC Employee Handbook. Stoudt has requested a review of the document by the Montour County Solicitor's office, but no feedback has yet been received. Item tabled pending input from Solicitor's office.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Chris Johns arrived at 7:40pm.

OTHER ITEMS

MARC Employee Credit Card Use

As discussed at the April meeting, the Montour County Auditors recommended that MARC acquire a credit card for staff use, rather than continuing to use personal credit and debit cards. Stoudt questioned whether MARC is legally allowed to get a credit card (because MARC may not borrow funds on its own behalf), and requested an opinion from the Montour County Solicitor's office. No such feedback was received before this meeting. Kevin Herritt questioned whether a debit card, tied to MARC's existing checking account, might be an acceptable work-around. After discussion, Chris Johns made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Herritt, to secure a debit card from Service 1st, with the limit as set by Service 1st. Approval would be required from MARC's Chairman (Mike Mills) to exceed the Service 1st transaction limit. Motion approved unanimously.

Hess Recreation Area Smoking Policy

Stoudt read aloud an email from a Danville Area School District lacrosse parent dated April 27 regarding smoking at the Hess Recreation Area. The parent is upset by smoking at the park, particularly around children. Stoudt noted that this issue has been revisited twice in the past, but MARC has concerns about the viability of enforcing the policy. Board members discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, raising concerns about how MARC's limited staffing could effectively monitor a smoking prohibition. After much discussion, the board recommended that Stoudt draft sample signage that would discourage smoking while children were present, but not necessarily ban smoking entirely at the park. Stoudt will present sample signage at the June meeting for consideration and possible approval.

Sidler Hill Mountain Bike Project

Stoudt noted that he had been contacted by a Montour County resident regarding the possible acquisition and management for outdoor recreation of a large parcel of woodland adjacent to the Geisinger Stewardship Forest. The asking price for the parcel far exceeds MARC's ability to assist with the land purchase. Several Board members expressed concern that MARC would negatively impact its existing fundraising efforts by taking on another major project. Stoudt will seek to assist with mapping and research efforts as needed, but MARC will not financially commit to the project.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Lavage noted the accountant's reports as presented in the meeting agenda packet. Bill Lavage also noted that DCNR has processed the check for the Montour Preserve grant, though MARC has not yet received the funds. Motion to approve by Dave Walker, 2nd by Frank Dombroski. Motion approved unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chris Johns noted the minutes of the April 10 meeting as were distributed for the meeting. Motion by Bill Lavage to approve, 2nd by Heather Good. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mike Mills adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Stoudt
Acting Secretary