

June 25, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

7:00pm - DRIVE conference room, 114 Woodbine Ln, Suite 103, Danville, PA 17821

MEETING ATTENDEES:

MARC BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Mills, Frank Dombroski, Kevin Herritt, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Dr. Kendra Boell, Heather Good, Tyler Dombroski, Chris Johns, Joe Ward

MARC STAFF

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC

Wayne Kashner, Karen Blackledge, Ralph Schumacher

Call to Order

- Chairman Mike Mills called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Officer Reports

- Chairman's Report
 - Chairman Mills noted that there will be no July meeting and that our next meeting would be Monday, August 27.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Assistant Treasurer Mills briefly reviewed the internally prepared reports and those provided by Susan Shultz for the period ending May 31. Errors noted in previous versions of the reports have been corrected and the reports are now recommended for approval. No new concerns were noted.
 - Motion: Dan Hartman; Second: Joe Ward; Motion passed unanimously.
- Secretary's Report
 - Chairman Mills called the board's attention to the April meeting minutes as distributed at the meeting. Commissioner Hartman had previously noted an error under the Secretary's report, indicating that Dr. Marks had not seconded the motion to approve the March meeting minutes. It was believed that Bill Lavage had instead seconded the motion. Stoudt revised the April meeting minutes accordingly and redistributed for consideration and approval at this meeting. No concerns were noted regarding the May 21 meeting minutes.
 - Motion to approve April and May meeting minutes: Frank Dombroski; Second: Kendra Boell; Motion passed unanimously.

Partner Reports

- Washingtonville Borough
 - An additional softball team has been using the softball field on an as-needed basis. Otherwise, nothing new to update.
- Danville Borough
 - Nothing new to report.
- Riverside Borough
 - Nothing new to report. Stoudt will work on making adjustments to the boat launch signage.
- Montour County
 - Nothing new to report.
- Danville Area School District
 - Chris stated the district is working towards having public use of the synthetic track. This has begun in the summer and a formal opening / closing schedule will be established by the start of the 18-19 school term (when events are not scheduled in the stadium).

Public Comment

- None

Assistant Director's Report (Jon Beam)

- Provided in meeting agenda packet.

Maintenance Technician's Report (Dennis Piatt)

- Provided in meeting agenda packet.

Director's Report (Bob Stoudt)

- **Montour Preserve**
 - Black bears have become a significant concern since May 20
 - Stoudt has worked with the PA Game Commission to reduce the attractiveness of the site to bears, but additional work needs to be done
 - A bear trap was placed at the Goose Cove picnic area to attempt to capture and relocate a bear that was frequenting the area, but no bears were captured, and the trap was removed.
 - Stoudt recommends the removal of all outdoor trash cans from the property and the purchase and placement of two bear-resistant dumpsters, to be located near the Goose Cove and Heron Cove restrooms.
 - The Bobcat utility vehicle has experienced several break-downs and is currently in the shop for repair
 - Summer newsletter and schedule of programs now available online at <http://montourpreserve.org/newsletter/>
- **North Branch Canal Trail**
 - Trail Steward Wayne Kashner continues to monitor and care for the trail, removing numerous fallen trees and repairing trail washouts

- During the May 20 cleanup event, a total of 209 tires and 15 yds³ of trash were collected and property disposed
 - Tire disposal was funded by the Northumberland County Conservation District's Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program, funded by the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

- **Hess Recreation Area**

- Bears have been a concern at the site since late May, being reported several times each week
 - By mid-June, bears were getting into park trash cans on nearly a nightly basis, requiring frequent cleanup
 - Stoudt removed all outdoor trash cans from the restroom area and pavilion on 6/19, placing signs directing park users to place all trash directly into the site's dumpster
 - Stoudt will continue to monitor site conditions for cleanliness and adjust as needed
- A trash dumping incident along the park access road was reported on 6/3
 - Stoudt cleaned up six 35-gallon bags worth of trash and went through the materials in an attempt to identify the person(s) responsible
 - Numerous items were discovered with name and address information as well as other personally-identifiable materials
 - Stoudt provided evidence to the Mahoning Township Police on 6/18
 - An investigation is ongoing to identify the individual(s) responsible for dumping the trash

- **Hess Recreation Area (continued)**

- Restoration work on the old baseball field (behind the restrooms) has been proceeding well during the last month
 - As reported on 6/16 by Rex A. Hepner, Jr. with the Danville Lady Railers:

Happy to report to you that Field 1 has been repaired and is in playable condition. The weather semi cooperated and allowed us to work. To date, we spent near \$6,500 on Field 1. I attached some progress photos for you. As well as our spreadsheet I am using to track the cost for our sponsors / grant providers.

We now look to straighten and paint the fence on field 1 and decide what to do with dug outs. We will also begin working on Field 1. Our girls are really enjoying the fields and love the facility.

- **Old Forge Brewing Company 5k**

- Event to be held 6/23
- 101 race registrants

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- June 24 Hummingbirds as Pollinators (Preserve)
- August 11 Hunter-Trapper Education Course (Preserve)
- August 25 Dynamics of Flowing Water (Preserve)
- August 27 MARC meeting

Old Business

- **North Branch Canal Trail Donation**

- Stoudt reported that a donor had contributed \$1,000 to MARC's Pass-Through Fund at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to support the North Branch Canal Trail project. Stoudt advised the board that he would request permission during MARC's June meeting to transfer these funds to MARC's checking account to cover the costs of the May 20 cleanup event. Motion: Dan Hartman; Second: Tyler Dombroski; Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Stoudt explained the need for bear-resistant dumpsters at the Montour Preserve and how the dumpsters would be used in prevention of bears. He stated this would need to be purchased with his personal credit card and he would then be reimbursed. The cost for 2 dumpsters would be approximately \$8,000. Motion: Dan Hartman; Second: Kendra Boell. Motion passed unanimously.
- After providing a mid-year summary of the budget, Stoudt reported the original budget for 2018 was approximately \$135,000. Stoudt feels the budget will come in more realistically around \$123,750. He then reviewed the updated budget numbers and included information that Dr. John Bulger was able to help secure a \$10,000 grant from Geisinger. With all of the updates, Stoudt stated we are now projected surplus of approx. \$11,895. The motion would be to adopt the updated budget as presented. Motion: Tyler Dombroski; Second: Chris Johns; Motion passed unanimously.

Other Items

- **Discussion of MARC Organizational Structure**

- Stoudt reported on several recent meetings with local recreation and other non-profit groups to discuss possible partnership and collaboration opportunities. Stoudt also reported that he'd spoken with two regional park managers with 'Friends Of' groups at their sites. Both reported that the 'Friends' accomplished many good projects and improved the parks, but both also reported that the projects that were completed were not necessarily high-priority objectives for the park and did not improve the parks' financial situation. Stoudt is neutral to slightly negative on the idea of creating a 'Friends of' group for MARC and currently believes a transition from a commission structure to 501(c)(3) status may be MARC's best option, assuming concerns can be adequately addressed.
- A conversation took place about several different alternatives for an ongoing organizational structure. Stoudt noted that more discussion will be needed before any possible decisions might be made.

Adjournment

- Chairman Mills adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Johns
MARC Secretary
June 25, 2018