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June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center, 374 Preserve Rd, Danville, PA 17821
and online through Zoom

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person) Tyler Dombroski, Elizabeth Rake, Bill Byron

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)

Kevin Herritt, Chadd Roadarmel, Frank Dombroski, Chris Johns, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Kristin Mikita, Dr. John Bulger, Tami Gabrielsen

MARC STAFF (in person)

Bob Stoudt

MARC STAFF (online)

Craig Reinard

PUBLIC (in person)

Chris Hall

PUBLIC (online)

Wayne Kashner, Otto Kurecian (Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau)

MEDIA (in person)

none

MEDIA (online)

none

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Tyler Dombroski.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tyler Dombroski noted MARC's staff's work on the recent Montour Preserve 50th anniversary event and thanked all for their efforts to make the event a success.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Bulger referred attendees to the Treasurer's Report as provided on pages 2 – 17 of the meeting agenda packet. No concerns were noted. Dr. Bulger noted that Stoudt would be addressing financial matters as part of the Director's Report and as part of the meeting's new business.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Rake

Second: Bill Byron

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairman Dombroski called the group's attention to the minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet. No concerns were noted.

Motion to approve the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes: Bill Byron

Second: Elizabeth Rake

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Chairman Dombroski reported the success of a walking tour of Washingtonville and Van Wagner concert this past weekend. There was positive coverage in the Press Enterprise newspaper.

Chairman Dombroski noted that he and Stoudt continued work to finalize the tasks necessary for the Giant – Healing the Planet Grant. All funds must be expended by July 31 and closeout reports submitted by August 31.

Chairman Dombroski also noted the Community Giving Foundation had recently granted to Washingtonville Borough \$1,000 for the construction of a new pavilion at DeLong Park. Chairman Dombroski and Stoudt anticipate that MARC will hold and administer the funds on the Borough's behalf if so requested by Washingtonville Borough Council. If so, the funds will be kept in a separate account as required by the Foundation's grant terms.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Kevin Herritt had nothing new to report. Chadd Roadarmel noted the success of the Dirty Grin Mountain Bike Festival and hoped for its continued growth in the future.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Elizabeth Rake noted Riverside Borough may consider the replacement of pieces of playground equipment in the Borough's park.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Hartman thanked Bob and MARC's staff for their hard work in conducting the Montour Preserve's 50th anniversary celebration.

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chris Johns noted nothing new to report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Bill Byron noted nothing new to report.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / NATURALIST'S REPORT

No report provided this month.

SENIOR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

No report provided this month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided on pages 19 - 31 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt called the group's attention to the mid-year staffing / budgeting notes provided as page 30 of the meeting agenda packet and discussed the ongoing financial and staffing challenges facing the organization. Stoudt also made note of the recent grant award of \$1,500 by the Community Giving Foundation: Danville for MARC's proposed purchase of an all-terrain vehicle. Stoudt thanked the Foundation for the support and noted that MARC must continue to seek funding for the remaining \$13,500 needed for the proposed purchase. As with the Washingtonville Borough grant, the Foundation's grant funds will need to be placed into a new account to be kept separate from other funds. Stoudt anticipates creation of the new account in coming weeks when funds are received.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

CHILLI CHALLENGE CANCELLATION

As noted on page 26 of the meeting agenda packet, Stoudt anticipates pipeline construction will require the closure of the Montour Preserve's Chilisugi Trail (used for the event). Additionally, Stoudt noted MARC has secured no sponsorships for the event, has inadequate staffing, and faces continued challenging financial conditions. Stoudt believes the event is not viable as planned and requested approval to cancel the planned October 1 event.

Motion to approve cancellation of the October 1, 2022 Chilli Challenge: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Bill Byron

Motion passed unanimously

2023 DIRTY GRIN MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL EVENT MANAGEMENT

Stoudt requested approval for MARC to continue event management of the Dirty Grin Mountain Bike Festival, tentatively scheduled for June 23 – 25, 2023. Stoudt is confident of sufficient support to make the event viable and believes the event is an important contributor to MARC's efforts to make and promote Montour County as a mountain biking destination.

Motion to approve: Kevin Herritt

Second: Elizabeth Rake

Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION FUND WITHDRAWAL REQUESTS

Stoudt requested approval to request the withdrawal of \$7,500 from MARC's Non-Endowed Fund and \$30,000 from MARC's Montour Preserve Fund at the Community Giving Foundation. These withdrawals were budgeted and are necessary to allow MARC the funding necessary for continued operations until future Montour County Hotel Tax grants are received. Stoudt noted that an additional \$10,000 withdrawal from the Montour Preserve Fund may be necessary before year's end, again as previously budgeted.

Motion to approve: Dr. John Bulger

Second: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Motion passed unanimously

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

Stoudt requested reimbursement for expenses incurred, as presented on pages 32 – 34 of the meeting agenda packet. Expenses included \$720 from Wagner's Trophies & Engraveables (48 Montour Preserve 50th anniversary commemorative hats), \$200 to Twin Hollows Farm (100 straw bales for the Humdinger Trail Races), and \$83.99 to Carbonite (one-year renewal of computer files backup service). Expenses totaled \$1,003.99.

Motion to approve: Dr. John Bulger

Second: Bill Byron

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

No other items for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:23pm.

Next meeting: Monday, August 22, 2022 (no July meeting) at the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center and online through Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Johns, Secretary