

January 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)

Dr. John Bulger

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person)

Bill Byron, Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Commissioner Rebecca Dressler, Tami Gabrielsen, Marlene Gunther, Chris Johns, Brett Johnson, Chadd Roadarmel, Michael Wert

MARC STAFF (online)

none

MARC STAFF (in person)

Bob Stoudt and Julian Brehm

PUBLIC (online)

Wayne Kashner, Otto Kurecian (CMVB), Joe Scopelliti (CMVB)

PUBLIC (in person)

John Zaktansky (Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association)

MEDIA (online)

Anna Weist (Daily Item)

MEDIA (in person)

none

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Dombroski welcomed Montour County Commissioner Rebecca Dressler and Danville Borough Councilman Michael Wert. Commissioner Dressler replaces Commissioner Hartman; Councilman Wert replaces Councilman Herritt.

ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS

Chairman Dombroski noted the need to elect new officers for 2024. Charman Dombroski thanked Dr. John Bulger for his service as MARC's 2023 Vice Chairperson and Treasurer and thanked Chris Johns for his service as MARC's 2023 Secretary. Chairman Dombroski asked for nominations for 2024 officer positions.

Marlene Gunther nominated Tyler Dombroski to remain Chairperson; seconded by Commissioner Dressler.
Motion passed unanimously.

Marlene Gunther nominated Dr. John Bulger to remain Vice Chairperson; seconded by Frank Dombroski.
Motion passed unanimously.

Marlene Gunther nominated Dr. John Bulger to remain Treasurer; seconded by Bill Byron.
Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dressler nominated Chris Johns to remain Secretary; seconded by Chadd Roadarmel.
Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dombroski thanked the Commission members for their support and thanked Dr. Bulger and Mr. Johns for their continued service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dombroski noted he remains in regular contact with Stoudt for MARC updates and bill payments and reported nothing of concern at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Bulger called attention to the Treasurer's report as provided as pages 2 – 22 of the meeting agenda packet. Dr. Bulger noted nothing of concern in the reports.

Stoudt noted the agenda packet contained two months of reports since MARC did not meet in December. Stoudt noted 2023 end-of-year budgeting was in line with what was expected, with the notable exception that construction of the Hopewell Park Pump Track (and expenses) was delayed until 2024.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Marlene Gunther

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Johns called the group's attention to the minutes of the November 20, 2023 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet.

No concerns were noted.

Motion to approve the November 20, 2023 meeting minutes: Bill Byron

Second: Chadd Roadarmel

Motion passed unanimously.

PARTNER REPORTS

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chris Johns noted nothing new to report.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Councilman Wert and Chadd Roadarmel noted nothing new to report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Marlene Gunther noted Geisinger's proposed plans to do projects associated with traffic patterns and planning for the new behavioral health facility near the St. Cyril's property.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Dressler expressed her gratitude for her recent election as a Montour County Commissioner and her appointment to MARC. Commissioner Dressler noted that she works regularly with Stoudt and is familiar with MARC's operations and looks forward to being more actively involved.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

No representatives in attendance; no report.

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Chairman Dombroski noted nothing new to report.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Julian Brehm called attention to the Assistant Director's report provided on page 23 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt praised Brehm's efforts during Stoudt's absence in December and complimented Brehm and MARC's other staff members for managing all aspects of the organization during his absence.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to the Director's Report provided on pages 24 – 35 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted the recent acquisitions of a flat-screen television, new computers, new Wi-Fi hardware, and other recent technology upgrades in the Montour Preserve's Environmental Education Center and Visitors' Center, made possible by funding through the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association's Vernal School program. Stoudt noted that work continues to investigate options for emergency repairs to the Preserve's Muskrat Blind.

Stoudt noted that the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center's heat pump had failed again in December, resulting in costly repairs and significantly increased electricity costs to run backup heating sources. Final repairs will be done in January when necessary parts are received. Stoudt anticipates the total cost of repairs and additional electrical service fees will total not less than \$5,000.

Finally, Stoudt reminded Commission members of the need to submit State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests Forms for 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-1 (SIGNATURE AUTHORITY)

Stoudt called attention to the proposed Resolution 2024-1, as presented on page 36 of the meeting agenda packet, setting signature authority permissions for 2024. Because MARC's 2024 officers are unchanged from 2023, Stoudt suggested there would be no need to update the document and recommended the item be tabled.

Item tabled; no action taken.

APPROVAL OF SMALL GAMES OF CHANCE LICENSE RENEWAL

Stoudt requested approval to renew MARC's Small Games of Chance License through the Montour County Treasurer's Office, allowing MARC to conduct fundraising activities in 2024.

Motion to approve: Bill Byron

Second: Tami Gabrielsen

Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION GRANT (\$2,000) FOR MILL PARK DEVELOPMENT

Stoudt requested approval to submit a grant application to the Community Giving Foundation: Danville's 2024 grant program in the amount of \$2,000 to support MARC's planned development of the Mill Park property along Mill Road in Derry Township.

Motion to approve: Brett Johnson

Second: Marlene Gunther

Motion approved unanimously with abstention by Tyler Dombroski.

APPROVAL TO HIRE TREE CARE PROFESSIONAL TO REMOVE HAZARDOUS TREES ALONG THE HESS RECREATION AREA HESS LOOP TRAIL (AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000)

Stoudt requested approval to spend up to \$4,000 to hire a tree care professional to assist MARC's staff with the removal of hazardous and problem trees along the Hess Loop Trail at the Hess Recreation Area. Stoudt hopes to complete the work as soon as possible.

Motion to approve: Frank Dombroski

Second: Brett Johnson

Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL TO REQUEST DANVILLE BOROUGH GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT FOR HESS FIELD ACCESS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Stoudt requested approval to seek the support of Danville Borough for a proposed application to the Montour County Conservation District's Dirt and Gravel Road Program to allow the reconstruction of the Hess Recreation Area access road. Stoudt presented engineering plans prepared by Montour County Conservation District staff showing the proposed work, to include new culvert and French mattress drainage and a resurfacing of the road with Driving Surface Aggregate (gravel). Per the plans prepared by the Montour County Conservation District, Stoudt anticipates expenses for Phase 1 of the work (to include milling of the existing road surface and installation of the drainage features) would total approximately \$120,075.81. If successfully completed, MARC would seek additional grant funding for Phase 2 of the project to resurface the roadway with the Driving Surface Aggregate, at an expected cost of approximately \$90,000.

MARC must secure the cooperation of Danville Borough for this project because the grant application must be submitted by the property owner (Danville Borough), not the property manager (MARC).

Stoudt anticipates drafting a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreement between Danville Borough and MARC to specify the terms of the agreement to protect both Danville Borough and MARC and to satisfy the terms of the grant program. Stoudt will bring such an agreement back to MARC for review and approval at an upcoming meeting, as well as to Danville Borough Council.

Motion to approve allowing Stoudt to seek Danville Borough cooperation for an application to the Montour County Conservation District's Dirt and Gravel Road Program: Chadd Roadarmel

Second: Chris Johns

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

No other items for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Chairman Tyler Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024, at the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center and online through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Johns, Secretary