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THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

1. President John R. Sette
2. Vice President Betty Cass-Schmidt
3. Commissioner Julie C. Baron
4. Commissioner Stuart Lasser
5. Commissioner Philip T. Santiago
6. Commissioner Judith Schleicher
7. Commissioner Richard Seabury, III
8. Commissioner Barbara Shepard
9. Commissioner Helen M. Wronski
10. Executive Director David D. Helmer
11. Freeholder Liaison Thomas Mastrangelo
12. File – 2

THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

353 East Hanover Avenue

Morristown, New Jersey

President Sette called to order the seven hundred and seventy-seventh meeting of the Morris County Park Commission at 7:30 p.m. on September 24, 2012, in the Park Commission Board Room at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, New Jersey.

Executive Director Helmer then read the following notice: PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of this meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on the twenty-fourth day of September 2012, has been provided by publication in the *Daily Record* and *The Star-Ledger*, by posting of said notice in the Administration Building of the Morris County Park Commission and at the County Courthouse, and by filing a copy of the same with the Morris County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The following were present:

President John R. Sette	Commissioner Julie C. Baron
Executive Director David D. Helmer	Commissioner Stuart Lasser
Deputy Executive Director William Hugaboom	Commissioner Philip T. Santiago
Park Counsel John Suminski	Commissioner Judith Schleicher
Treasurer Glenn Roe	Commissioner Helen M. Wronski

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

President Sette led those present in the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2012, regular Park Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Jay Oliva	60 Brookstone Circle Morris Plains, NJ	973-698-4988	NJ Coed Sports
Brian Hausman	10 Rebecca Lane Rockaway, NJ	973-202-4928	NJ Coed Sports

Mr. Hausman mentioned that he and Mr. Oliva had attended the May Park Commission meeting and at that time had presented some of their suggested changes for the Park Commission’s recreational field allocation policies. He inquired if any of these changes had been considered. Executive Director Helmer informed them that the Kickball Field Allocation, the Sand Volleyball Court Allocation, Soccer Field Allocation, and Softball Field Allocation policies were reviewed in Committee and deemed sufficient, and that no changes to the

policies were needed. Mr. Helmer advised them that when forwarding their 2013 reservation requests to the Recreation Department to copy him as well. Thus a comparison can be made between how the requests are currently handled and how they may have been handled differently in the past. He noted that the Park Commission is monitoring the same grandfathered groups and time allocations as had been done in the past.

LIST OF BILLS

Commissioner Lasser recommended the payment of bills for the month of August 2012, totaling \$2,941,430.56. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by roll call vote (Attachment No. 1).

Commissioner Lasser recommended the payment of bills for the month of September 2012, totaling \$2,485,984.27. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by roll call vote (Attachment No. 2).

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stuart Lasser, Acting Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Stuart Lasser, Acting Chairman	Executive Director Helmer
President John R. Sette	Deputy Executive Director Hugaboom
Treasurer Glenn Roe	Assistant Director of Finance R. Vitale

The Committee reviewed and confirmed approval of the August 2012 List of Bills consisting of Operating Bills in the amount of \$973,438.62; Prepaid Expenditures totaling \$1,585,381.76, including two payrolls totaling \$1,187,975.27; Park Capital, \$132,386.27; Morris County Park Improvement Trust, \$247,989.78; Park Trust, \$287.87; and Grant Fund Expenditures of \$1,946.26; for a total of \$2,941,430.56 . The Committee also recommended approval of Morris County Capital bills in the amount of \$35,789.43.

The Committee also reviewed and recommended approval of the September 2012 List of Bills consisting of Operating Bills in the amount of \$631,358.10; Prepaid Expenditures totaling \$1,314,407.24, including two payrolls totaling \$1,141,101.30; Park Capital, \$422,850.64; Morris County Park Improvement Trust, \$112,439.03; Park Trust, \$4,739.26; and Grant Fund Expenditures of \$190.00; for a total of \$2,485,984.27. The Committee also recommended approval of Morris County Capital bills in the amount of \$11,334.00.

The Committee recommended the authorization of the award, extension, and rejection of contracts contained in the Resolutions presented for approval at the Park Commission meeting, and the adoption of the following Resolutions No. 101-12 through No. 109-12.

Resolution No.	Description
No. 99-12	Places the Park Commission in Executive Session pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.
No. 100-12	Adopts Resolution No. 101-12 through No. 109-12
No. 101-12	Increases the rent payment for Contract No. 21-06 titled "Lease, Operate and Maintain an Equestrian Stable Facility and Five Room Apartment at Seaton Hackney Farm Park" with Equishare USA, LLC of Califon, New Jersey, in conjunction with the terms of the contract to \$2,291.03 per month through July 31, 2013.
No. 102-12	Awards an emergency contract for the "Operation of Food and Beverage Concession at the Pinch Brook and Sunset Valley Golf Course" be awarded in a fair and open process to Corporate Café – LLC of Boonton Township, New Jersey.
No. 103-12	Awards professional services contracts solicited through a non-fair and open process for the required periodic inspection of four dams to Civil Dynamics, Inc., of Stockholm, New Jersey; for Leddell's Pond Dam in the amount of \$3,200.00; Cherry Weber and Associates for Canty's Lake Dam, in the amount of \$2,500.00; and Hatch, Mott, MacDonald for the Reservoir Pond and Hedden Pond Dams in the amount of \$6,000.00.
No. 104-12	Awards Contract No. 43-12 titled "Reconstruction of the Flume and Catwalk at the Cooper Gristmill" to Charles Mann General Contracting of Pittstown, New Jersey, in the amount of \$145,495.00, and establishes a construction contingency fund in the amount of \$29,099.00.
No. 105-12	Confirms the actions of the Assistant Director of Finance and Treasurer in voiding the check listed in the Resolution.
No. 106-12	Approves a check cashing and indemnification agreement with Valley National Bank.
No. 107-12	Approves the receipt of a \$64,266.00 New Jersey Historic Operating Support Grant.
No. 108-12	Authorizes the Morris County Park Commission to participate in the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System.

Resolution No.	Description
No. 109-12	Affirms the Morris County Park Commission's support of the application to the State House Commission for the diversion of a portion of Block 320, Lot 9 and Block 335, Lot 4, which is part of the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation.

The Committee reviewed the monthly Revenue reports, and discussed the improvement from 2011 as well as the forecast for actual year-end revenue relative to anticipated revenues.

The Committee discussed the status of the preparation of the 2013 Operating Budget and the 2013 Capital Budget request. The Committee noted that the current draft 2013 Operating Budget reflects a slight decrease in salaries and wages from 2012 and an increase in other operating expenses of approximately 2%, for a combined budget change in expenses of about 1%. However, due to reduced funding projections a gap of (\$824,737.00) exists, which must be addressed.

The Committee recommended the approval of the 2013 Park Commission Capital Funding request for \$500,000.00 for paving projects throughout the park system and \$1,069,000.00 for vehicles and equipment.

Commissioner Lasser moved to accept the report of the Finance and Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

PROMOTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Helen M. Wronski, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Helen M. Wronski, Chairman
Executive Director David D. Helmer

Assistant Deputy Director Lanza
Director of Recreation Fauci
Assistant Director of Finance R. Vitale
Manager of Recreation Biase
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Wnek

Recreation

- Noting the following regarding the Warrior Dash
 - The July 14, 2012, Warrior Dash made \$20,391.00 in revenue.
 - The contract for the 2013 Warrior Dash has been signed; the fees were raised for the 2013 event.
 - The \$9,000.00 deposit for the 2013 event is expected by the end of the month.
- Reviewing a status report of the 2012 lake recreation season.

- Agreeing to raise the daily admission fee for Sunrise Lake Beach Club for the 2013 season by \$1.00 to \$6.00 for an adult and \$5.00 for children.
- Agreeing to close the lake facility on Mondays due to attendance, and changing the hours of operation from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Reviewing the allocation process and policies relating to booking athletic facilities (soccer, softball, kickball, and volleyball).
- Recommending no changes to the current field allocation process.
- Agreeing that staff continue to investigate the costs of accepting a donation of play equipment from Drew University. Noting that:
 - The quote for removal and reinstallation is currently \$9,900.00; the value of the equipment is \$20,000.00.
 - The cost of installing safety surfacing is yet to be determined.

Marketing and Communications

- Reviewing key areas of the Marketing and Communications Report, and highlighting some of the staff's design work.
- Reviewing the final draft of the *Identity and Branding Manual*.
- Agreeing to continue to work with Tom O'Dowd, O'Dowd Advertising, on a proposal for alternative print promotion in the absence of *Pathways*.

Visitors Service

- Reviewing the research completed in looking for a new reservation system (Vermont Systems). This is a system that would be used by every department to help gather data for marketing and development initiatives as well as be more useful in reporting and record keeping of permits and revenue for all facilities.

Central Park of Morris County

- Updating the Committee on the status of the Phase II construction at Central Park, and acknowledging that Petillo Incorporated was awarded the contract by the County.
- Reviewing the status of the proposed Disc Golf Course at Central Park of Morris County, and noting that Executive Director Helmer has been unable to dedicate time to this initiative.

Other Business

- Approving of the Garden State Wine Growers Grand Harvest Wine Festival on October 13-14, 2012, at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm.

Commissioner Wronski moved to accept the report of the Promotion and Business Activities Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Judith Schleicher, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Judith Schleicher, Chairman
Commissioner Julie C. Baron
Commissioner Helen M. Wronski
Executive Director David D. Helmer

Assistant Deputy Director Lanza
Director of Cultural and Environmental
Resources Zafonte
Assistant Director of Historic Sites Laffey
Manager of Buildings and Construction Holster
Superintendent of Natural Resources
Management Kovacevic
Superintendent of Horticulture Education
Parness

- Approving the new divisional name of "Division of Cultural and Environmental Resources" for the recently combined Division of Horticulture and Natural Resources and the Division of Historic Sites.
- Inspecting and verifying a referenced heavy timber framing project previously completed by the only bidder out of six bidders to have listed this experience in their bid document for the Cooper Gristmill Flume and Catwalk Reconstruction Project. Staff will submit a report to the Committee prior to the September 24, 2012, Commission meeting.
- Acknowledging the pending disposal of the Mt. Hope Mine Collection files stored at the Saffin Building at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation that were flood-damaged by Hurricane Irene, and that they will be thoroughly documented and any files having personal information will be shredded.
- Noting that Change Order #2 for the Main Barn Restoration Project at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm has been referred to the Park Development Committee for review and approval.
- Continuing to work with the Main Barn construction contractor to produce a "barn raising" special event in late October, early November 2012.

- Reporting on the following:
 - The 19th Century Country Fair and Harvest Festival held on September 9th at Fosterfields was very successful, with approximately 1,700 in attendance.
 - The Friends of Historic Speedwell is holding its Friends of History Awards Reception on September 14th honoring Frank Druetzler, Mayor of Morris Plains, and Mark Texel, Director of the State Park Service, New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry.
 - The annual meeting of the Friends of Fosterfields and Cooper Gristmill is scheduled for October 5th.

- Approving the request by Superintendent of Horticultural Education Parness to seek funding of \$2,500.00 from both the North Jersey Civil War Roundtable and the Verizon Foundation to support the development of a permanent exhibit at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum focusing on plants and their roles in the Civil War, which will include permanent signage, installation of plants, and promotional materials for middle and high school field trip opportunities.

- Preparing written materials tailored for appropriate age levels that will appear on the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's website, and developing a web quest to fulfill the curriculum requirement of the New Jersey State Board of Education regarding the permanent Civil War exhibit at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

- Approving the requests:
 - To seek funding of \$500.00 per year for three consecutive years from the Bartlett Tree Experts to fund a Family Games (passive recreation) initiative for families visiting The Frelinghuysen Arboretum to augment the current family offerings such as scavenger hunts, crafts, and Discovery Back Packs, and to fund the development of nature/horticulture based "Concentration" matching games, featuring custom professional photography. Traditional board games such as checkers, chess, Chinese checkers, and so forth will be offered for purchase as well.
 - To have images from the Elizabeth D. Kay Rare Book Collection reproduced on note cards for use in the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's membership level benefits. Also for approval is the sale of additional note cards to the general public, with the proceeds to be used to fund a dedicated account yet to be specified.

- Approving the dropping of Loantaka Brook Reservation from the 2012/2013 White-tailed Deer Management Program due to lack of hunter registration for this facility.

Commissioner Schleicher moved to accept the report of the Cultural and Educational Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Barbara Shepard, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Barbara Shepard,
Chairman

Vice President Betty Cass-Schmidt

Commissioner Julie C. Baron

Executive Director David D. Helmer

Director of Engineering Services Biggs

Assistant Director of Engineering Services A. Vitale

Engineering Project Manager Chang

Manager of Buildings and Construction Holster

Mr. George Sous, Mr. John Ribardo, and Mr. Bill Cesario of PSE&G were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line Project.

- Being provided an update on the proposed Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line Project, as presented by representatives of PSE&G, which included a video demonstration of the aerial construction methods utilizing helicopters that will be used to minimize environmental construction impacts along the ROW contiguous to Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area.
- Acknowledging that the Temporary Access Agreements for PSE&G's use of roads/trails/fields at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area have been approved by the New Jersey Green Acres Program. A total of 205,637 square feet of access road/trail is being utilized along with 13.85 acres of parkland for a potential helipad staging site. A Mitigation Plan dated August 2012 has also been approved (Attachment No. 3).
- Noting that reconstruction of the Saffin Pond Dam is virtually complete except for minor punch-list items, and an as-built certification by Cherry Weber is currently under review.
- Acknowledging that the Leddell's Pond Dam design has been complete for some time, and the project can move forward once the sign-off of construction easements are finalized.
- Reviewing the September 7, 2012, Regular Dam Inspection report provided by Assistant Director of Engineering Services Vitale (Attachment No. 4).
- Agreeing to the recommendations to modify existing professional services contracts with the firms that are currently consulting on design and/or mandated bi-annual dam inspections. It is important to maintain consistent bi-annual inspection of dams with the engineering firms responsible for the design.
- Approving Change Order No. 2, as detailed, in the amount of \$14,778.75 for Contract No. 45-11 – Phase IV: Partial Restoration of the Barnyard Complex at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. The change order is necessary due to unforeseen site and building conditions. The project remains well within the encumbered contingency.

- Reviewing the ongoing construction for The Frelinghuysen Arboretum site plan upgrades that include: the maintenance road is roughed in as is the detention basin; certain storm drains are in place; the foundations for the Whippany Road deer grate have been poured; and the temporary by-pass road will be in place next week.
- Requesting that staff draft correspondence asking for high-level NJDEP intervention to allow for the necessary NJDEP exceptions needed to add additional boat slips at Lee's County Park Marina (Attachment No. 5).
- Reporting that the drainage problems surrounding the residence and restroom facility at Lee's County Park Marina have been resolved and the pavement repairs have been made.
- Acknowledging the update of the progress of plans for storm water and water-quality improvements at Seaton Hackney Stables. The plans are being developed by Princeton Hydro, with input from Geoff Knapp, and utilizing a 319 (h) grant for funding. Coordination with existing utilities is in progress.
- Noting that Contract No. 40-12, "Suspended Ceiling Tiles System Replacement at Mennen Sports Arena" has been completed
- Accepting the Buildings and Construction Activity Report.

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the Report of the Park Development Committee. The motion was seconded by President Sette and unanimously approved by voice vote.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND PARK MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Julie C. Baron, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Julie C. Baron
 Commissioner Richard Seabury, III
 Commissioner Judith Schleicher
 Executive Director David D. Helmer

Director of Park Maintenance Vath
 Manager of Park Projects Felter
 Trail Foreman Nee

Park Maintenance

- Approving staff's report on the recent welding training for park mechanic staff held at the Morris County School of Technology. There was a flat rate for the class of \$1,375.00; five employees attended.
- After discussing Director Vath's playground repair report, the Committee recommended that the playground structure at Loantaka Brook Reservation not be repaired at a cost of \$31,500.00.

- Recommending that staff pursue alternatives for the replacement of the playground structure at Loantaka Brook Reservation.
- Approving staff's report on FEMA damage reimbursements; to date the Park Commission has received \$142,000.00 in reimbursements.
- Approving staff's report on Park Maintenance initiatives.
- Approving staff's report on fire and safety initiatives.
- Approving the Park Maintenance Division's 2012 Goals and Objective Project Status Report.

Recreational Trails

- Noting the completion of the installation of the Fit-Trail ten-station exercise course donated by BASF, along the Traction Line Recreation Trail. BASF donated \$13,000.00 to purchase the equipment.
- Noting that the next Morris County Green Table meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2012. The meeting subject matter is "Taking Your Trails Public."
- Acknowledging staff's effort to make the Adopt-A-Trail program more hands-on trail maintenance, rather than just reporting.
- Noting that the 2011 New Jersey Trail Grant projects have been completed; the Wharton Borough section of the West Morris Greenway and the Roxbury Township/Alamatonig Wellfield section of the West Morris Greenway.
- Reviewing upcoming trail projects including:
 - Bridge repairs on the Columbia Trail
 - Resurfacing of the Loantaka Trail from Loantaka Way to Green Village Road
 - Resurfacing sections of the Traction Line Recreation Trail
 - Working with JORBA to develop an off-road bicycling course at the Snow Bowl Area of Mahlon Dickerson Reservation
- Noting that the Patriots' Path extension from Cory Road to Martin Luther King Avenue needs to be resurveyed and staked out, due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irene last year.
- Acknowledging Trail Foreman Nee's continued participation on the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance, and noting that Congressman Frelinghuysen requested to be kept apprised of activities related to this initiative.

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the report of the Recreational Trails and Park Maintenance Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and unanimously approved by voice vote.

AD HOC GOLF COMMITTEE

Vice President Betty Cass-Schmidt, Chairman

PRESENT:

Vice President Betty Cass-Schmidt, Chairman

Commissioner Stuart Lasser

Commissioner Barbara Shepard

Executive Director David D. Helmer

Director of Golf Klose

Assistant Director of Finance R. Vitale

Manager of Golf Course Maintenance

Engler

Golf Management Assistant Weinerth

- Reviewing the Billy Casper Golf (BCG) "Berkshire Valley Management Metrics for Seven Months, Ending July 31, 2012" financial report.
- Requesting that a report be prepared each month showing the Cost per Round vs. Revenue per Round for Flanders Valley, Pinch Brook, and Sunset Valley Golf Courses. Noting that factors related to the cost per round may have to be annualized from the approved annual Operating Budget.
- Reviewing the past performance of the golf courses (2000-2011) by way of a "Multi-Year Analysis" report prepared by Assistant Director of Finance R. Vitale.
- Noting that the Phase I Irrigation Project at Flanders Valley Golf Course is on schedule to be completed by late fall 2012.
- Reporting that the re-contour project of hole #14 on Flanders Valley's Blue course was resodded and is growing in nicely. The fairway may be returned to play at the beginning of October 2012.
- Acknowledging that the GolfNow marketing program has accounted for 6,991 rounds of golf and \$286,902.00 in revenue to date for the 2012 season. This is an increase of 3,600 rounds over the 2011 year-to-date rounds. The program also included:
 - MCPC mobile website
 - Customer Appreciation Day, May 19, 2012
 - Golf Channel Amateur Tour (GCAT) event, June 22, 2012
 - Dedicated email blast
 - "Featured Course" position on GolfNow website
 - GolfNow website "Banner Ad"
 - MCPC event giveaways

- Reviewing examples of the ad campaign to increase low-volume tee times, specifically the \$32.00 rate, beginning at 2 p.m. at Flanders Valley Golf Course:
 - *The Korean Daily* advertisement
 - Direct Mail to households in the vicinity of Flanders Valley Golf Course
 - Marketing on the golf carts
 - 2012 "Come Play With Us" POD ad at Mennen Sports Arena
- Noting the complementary golf course write-ups provided by *The Korean Daily* regarding Berkshire Valley, Flanders Valley, Pinch Brook, and Sunset Valley Golf Courses and an article in *Golfing Magazine* NJ/PA Edition, Summer 2012 issue entitled "Berkshire Valley Golf Course: Challenging, Fair and Beautiful" announcing Billy Casper Golf as the Management Company in charge.
- Advising that notification will be given on or about October 15, 2012, if a \$2,000.00 grant from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA)/PGA of America "First Links Program" will be awarded to the Park Commission. Funds will be used to hire an ASGCA-member architect to evaluate golf facilities for the potential to develop a short course or practice area, or to otherwise modify their existing layouts in a way to welcome new players.
- Discussing examples of golf course reconfigurations.
- Reviewing the Golf Course Media Plan/Expenses for 2012.
- Noting the potential need to increase ADA parking spaces at Pinch Brook Golf Course. The Engineering staff is reviewing the current code.

Commissioner Lasser moved to accept the report of the Ad Hoc Golf Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

AD HOC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Philip T. Santiago, Chairman

PRESENT

Commissioner Philip T. Santiago, Chairman
 Executive Director David D. Helmer

Assistant Deputy Director Lanza

- Reviewing the September 2012 Development Report (Attachment No. 6).

Commissioner Santiago moved to accept the report of the Legislative Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Helmer noted that the transcripts to the August 9, 2012, Public Hearing on the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation/PSE&G Diversion have been entered as an exhibit for the

final diversion application. The only members of the public in attendance for the hearing were from the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. He noted that most of the comments from the above-mentioned organizations pertained to issues not specific to the diversion area, and that additional correspondence has been received from various organizations regarding PSE&G's use of Temporary Access through parkland at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area. The following is a review of the Temporary Access being provided to PSE&G Company for the Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Project:

- 24-month Temporary Access on Morris County Park Commission Property (beginning 9/14/2012)
- Mahlon Dickerson Reservation
 - Jefferson Township
- Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
 - Boonton Township, Kinnelon Borough, Montville Township
- Agreements provide access for PSE&G, BL Companies, High Tech Landscaping, and Kh&m
- Surveying, silt fence installation, construction, etc.

Thirteen (13) distinct areas have been identified and approved for use by PSE&G, totaling 205,637 square feet, with an additional 13.85 acres to be reserved for a Helicopter/Lay-down Area. Access to the Park Commission's New Jersey Green Acres-encumbered property has been approved by the New Jersey Green Acres Program. The Park Commission and the New Jersey Green Acres Program have also approved a Mitigation and Forest Restoration Plan for subject areas. The approved access routes and areas have been identified on Park Commission trail maps for Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area.

The Park Commission received comments from a number of entities voicing concern over providing PSE&G access to Morris County Park Commission stewarded public lands to access the utility Right-of-Way. Park Commission staff worked diligently to reduce potential short-term and long-term negative environmental impacts to park property, as well as visitor enjoyment of the lands. Below is a review of the activities associated with the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area:

18.62 miles of trail in park

- **.81 miles being used on Turkey Mountain side**
 - .30 mile, access area 60/PPL 298 (part of unblazed Horseshoe Trail that connects with Yellow Trail)
 - Will use existing trail footprint and tread material
 - Originally a 3-5-foot mining road
 - .21 mile, access area 60/PPL 299 (part of unblazed Horseshoe Trail that connects with Yellow Trail)
 - Will use existing trail footprint and tread material

- Originally a 3-5-foot mining road
 - .20 mile, access area 60.1/PPL 287 & 286D (being accessed from Montville property off of Boonton Avenue)
- **Original plan was to use 2.63-miles on Turkey Mountain side of park**
 - 2.03 miles, the entire lengths of the Yellow and Blue Trails south of the powerline
 - .60 mile of the Yellow Trail north of the powerline off of Stoney Brook Road by the Vernicek property
- **Visitors Center side of park**
 - .90 mile of new trail, access area 54/PPL 279E & 279F (Miller Road)

The Park Commission secured a commitment from PSE&G that Access Route 60 located on Montville Township, Block 3, Lot 15 will only be used for foot traffic unless in case of an emergency.

Public Comments were received by the following groups and individuals:

8/30/12	Mr. Garry M. Annibalp
8/21/12	Friends of Pyramid Mountain
8/9/12	New Jersey Conservation Foundation
3/12/12	The Lake Valhalla Club
2/23/12	The Lake Valhalla Club
2/13/12	The Nature Conservancy
2/9/12	Upper Rockaway River Watershed Association
1/31/12	Upper Rockaway River Watershed Association
1/25/12	Friends of Pyramid Mountain (correspondence & DVD)
8/10/2009	New Jersey Conservation Foundation
7/27/2009	New Jersey Highlands Coalition

The Friends of History Awards Reception and fundraising event that was held at Historic Speedwell on Friday, September 14th was well attended. During that same weekend, on Sunday, September 16th, Historic Speedwell held a Wedding of the Century Fashion Show; approximately 130 attended.

The Willowood Foundation Open House was held on September 16th, with 300 in attendance.

The annual Lenape Day event is being held at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center on Saturday, October 13th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The second Garden State Wine Growers Association, Grand Harvest Wine Festival will be at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm on October 13th and 14th, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

The *Daily Record* is discontinuing the "This Week" section; this is the section in which the quarterly *Pathways* is featured. The Fall/2012 *Pathways* will appear one last time in the *Daily Record* in October.

Executive Director Helmer reported that the Mosquito Commission has sprayed in a number of park locations this past year – Passaic River County Park, Loantaka Brook Reservation, Seaton Hackney Stables, Hedden County Park, Historic Speedwell, and the Community Gardens. They've had to spray at more locations this year than in 2011.

Harding Township sent a letter to the National Park Service at Jockey Hollow stressing the importance of expediting its wildlife management program.

Executive Director Helmer noted that a letter had been sent to the mayor of Morristown letting him know that the Park Commission supported Morristown's initiative to establish a community garden on Martin Luther King Avenue, which is where the former Zudick ice house was located. He mentioned that after reading the on-line newspaper *Patch* he learned that the residents of the 2nd Ward of Morristown would like to have some sort of a monument or memorial recognizing a former resident erected in this area. Executive Director Helmer stated that this initiative will be the responsibility of the Town of Morristown, not the Park Commission.

The Park Commission submitted a letter to Morris Township regarding the Honeywell project, specific to obtaining the traffic studies that could potentially affect the Traction Line Recreational Trail. The Township forwarded the requested information immediately.

A letter of concern was received regarding the noise made from the model boat group, the Rooster Tails, at Saffin Pond, Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. Executive Director Helmer will have staff reply and inform the individual of why this is a hobby group activity that is allowed on Saffin Pond.

A complaint was received from an individual who had attended the 1920s Country Fair and Harvest Festival at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm regarding the length of the food lines.

Superintendent of Natural Resources Kovacevic received a phone call from an individual who lives along the Rockaway River Access Area of the Tourne County Park. This person feels very strongly that the Park Commission is creating a hazard, especially for small children, by providing cover for coyote and bear in the meadow, which is not mowed. This field is part of the Park Commission's Meadow Management Plan and thus mowed only periodically. This individual has warned Superintendent Kovacevic that if the decision to keep these fields unmown is the cause of someone getting hurt, it will be the fault of the Park Commission. Executive Director Helmer has asked Superintendent Kovacevic to contact the individual and request they send a formal letter to the Park Commission.

Trail Foreman Nee has been working closely with five corporate groups on volunteer projects. The businesses that have been participating on these volunteer days are Avis Rentals of Parsippany at Central Park of Morris County; Novartis Corporation of East Hanover at Lewis Morris County Park (last year Novartis donated \$5,000.00); Wyndham Corporation of Parsippany at Central Park; Mars Incorporated of Hackettstown at Schooley's Mountain County Park; and Alcoa Howmet of Dover at Hedden County Park. Executive Director Helmer noted that he had asked Assistant Deputy Director Lanza to follow-up with thank you letters.

Executive Director Helmer reported that Freeholder Murphy has had recent conversations with the facilities manager of Kraft Foods, Inc., in East Hanover. The manager has advised him that Kraft is planning on changing the entrance to its facility and would like to donate its 28'x14'x18' eagle sculpture to the County of Morris. Mr. Helmer noted that the eagle will be temporarily displayed at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, until it can make its permanent move to Central Park of Morris County, after the construction is completed.

A ribbon cutting for the new Fit-Trail, that replaced the Paracourse, at the Traction Line Recreational Trail, is being arranged with BASF.

A donation was received from Tri-State Office Solutions in Fairfield in the form of a tree planted at Central Park of Morris County.

Morris County Soil Conservation will be planting 10 trees and 4 shrubs at Central Park sometime in October, in acknowledgement of some of its former trustees.

Executive Director Helmer reported that he had been solicited by a company that raises sponsorships for trail systems, and has requested that Assistant Deputy Director Lanza reach out to the company to discuss its program.

A number of donations were received for the historic sites:

- a photograph of Caroline Foster at her 100th birthday celebration with John Cabot Lodge
- two phonograph records from the Seeing Eye
- a water color of Historic Speedwell circa 1790-1844
- a telegraph sounder (piece that transmits the sounds)
- a Hupmobile power light
- various personal items to be added to the historic collection at The Willows (2 handkerchiefs, pair of white embossed cufflinks, scissors, yardstick)

An email was received from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, an organization established within the last two years. The Mountain Lakes Crew Club contacted them about potentially helping with the rehabilitation of the Pavilion at Lee's County Park Marina. Not only is the crew club interested in the storage area it uses beach side, but also in opening up some type of an eatery upstairs.

The Park Commission was recently complimented on how well Billy Casper Golf is operating Berkshire Valley Golf Course.

The Morris County Tourism Bureau was going to hold its annual meeting last week, but the bureau's president passed away. They were going to be showing a four-minute video, "A Day in the Life of Morris County," that is going to be made into a DVD for distribution. Sunrise Lake Beach Club and Berkshire Valley Golf Course are two out of ten locations featured.

A request was received for an extended stay at the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation Camping Area, and Executive Director Helmer reported that based upon the background check everything appears to be alright. The closing on their home in Jefferson Township was delayed, and they were referred to the campsite by a Jefferson Township resident.

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the Report of the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wronski and unanimously approved by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Santiago moved to adopt Resolution No. 99-12 (Attachment No. 7) placing the Commission meeting into Executive Session pursuant to provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5), (6), (7) and (8), the pertinent provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

PERSONNEL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stuart Lasser, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Stuart Lasser, Chairman
President John R. Sette
Treasurer Glenn Roe

Executive Director Helmer
Deputy Executive Director Hugaboom
Park Police Chief Wieland

Reports

The Committee reviewed the July and August 2012 monthly Park Police Reports. The Committee noted that the Park Police made some significant arrests over the active summer months. While reviewing the reports, the Committee recommended that the pie charts be changed to bar graphs to better depict changes in activity.

Staffing

Chief Wieland advised the Committee that due to recent retirements key Park Police supervisory positions need to be filled. The Chief recommended promoting Lieutenant David Doyle to Captain, Sergeant Michael Thomson to Lieutenant, and Officer Jason Parrillo to Sergeant, effective October 1, 2012. After discussing the skills and experience of the officers, in conjunction with the operational needs of the Park Police Division, the Committee concurred with the promotions and recommended their approval.

Police Activities

Chief Wieland advised the Committee of some recent Park Police operations and reported that the National Night Out Program was recorded on DVD and submitted for the National Awards Program.

Conferences and Educational Incentives

The Committee reviewed and recommended the approval of requests submitted by staff members to attend conferences, seminars, and workshops. The September 2012 requests submitted totaled \$2,383.00.

The Committee noted receipt of the conference reports submitted by Assistant Director of Historic Sites Laffey and Manager of Recreation Biase.

Labor Relations

Staff advised the Committee that negotiation sessions are continuing with the Office and Professional Employees International Union – Local 32 with significant work remaining to be done. Tentative Agreements have been reached with The International Brotherhood of Teamsters – Local 469, the Police Benevolent Association – Local 264, and the Park Police Superior Officer’s Association. The contracts are currently being prepared for ratification.

Absence Reports

The Committee reviewed the Employee Absence Reports for the months of July and August 2012, and discussed the impact that long-term absences are having on Park Operations.

Salary and Wage Budget

The Committee discussed the preliminary 2013 salary and wage budget and requested that staff continue to look for ways to address funding limitation issues while addressing overall organization structure needs.

Furlough

The Committee considered an employee’s request for a second intermittent furlough request, without pay, and recommended approval of the request.

Leave of Absence

The Committee recommended the approval of an employee request for Leave of Absence without pay for personal reasons.

Commissioner Schleicher moved to accept the report of the Personnel and Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lasser and unanimously approved by voice vote.

LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

Vice President Judith Schleicher, Chairman

PRESENT:

Commissioner Richard Seabury, III – Chairman	Manager of Park Projects Felter
Commissioner Julie C. Baron	MC Open Space Director Chang
Commissioner Judith Schleicher	MC Open Space Program Coordinator Murray
Executive Director David D. Helmer	

- Requesting that staff make an offer of \$615,000.00, based on an appraisal for the Old Mendham Road, 10.76-acres Seeing Eye property located in Morris Township, contiguous to Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. The Seeing Eye had its own appraisal on the property which was \$780,000.00.
- Noting that the engineering analysis being performed on the Pansini property, Mine Hill Township, is nearly complete and the property will yield an estimated seven lots. The Committee requested that staff proceed with an appraisal on the 6.26-acre property. Funds for the acquisition of this property are available from the 2011 New Jersey Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant.
- Recommending that an updated appraisal be performed on Lots 505/508/510 Block 70501, Denville Township. These properties are contiguous with Jonathan's Woods.
- Recommending that staff reach out to the Denville Township Administrator to review a potential land acquisition along the Morris Canal Greenway.
- Requesting that staff contact the owner of Block 21101/Lot 7, Boonton Township, to discuss plans for the back part of their property that is contiguous with Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area.
- Requesting that staff hold off on contacting the owner of Block 21101/Lot 4, Boonton Township.
- Recommending that no action be taken on Block 21001/Lot 2, Boonton Township.
- Requesting that staff reach out to the owner of Block 21701/Lot 5, Boonton Township, to see if they would consider providing a trail easement on the back portion of their property contiguous with the Mine Ridge section of Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area.
- Requesting that staff contact the owner of Block 20801/Lot 6 to see what portion of their property they are interested in subdividing and selling.
- Requesting that staff contact the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to let them know that the Park Commission had no interest in the Penny Lane project in Boonton Township.

- Noting the closing on the Gonsky property, contiguous to Schooley's Mountain County Park and the Columbia Trail, is scheduled for October 1, 2012.
- Reviewing a request by a property owner contiguous to the Elizabeth D. Kay Environmental Center, seeking formal permission to allow the Chester Township Fire Department the ability to draw water from a pond on park property for fire emergency purposes. The concern from staff was that formal permission for this activity may become a NJ Green Acres diversion of park property. The Committee's recommendation was to have Park Counsel contact Chester Township to see if there needed to be a formal approval.
- Reviewing the Timothy acquisition that recently closed, and requesting that staff meet with the former owner's representative to review matters related to a permanent acknowledgement of the former owner to be located on the property.
- Noting that the new park boundary signs have been delivered and will be installed over time.
- Reviewing the status of the closing on the Wilmerding property that the Schiff Natural Lands Trust is acquiring, that will also be providing the Park Commission with a Patriots' Path trail easement. Recommending that a formal survey map be provided and that the trail be established by the owner prior to closing.

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the report of the Land Acquisition Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and unanimously approved by voice vote.

REPORT OF COUNSEL

Counsel Suminski reviewed the monthly Report of Counsel (Attachment No. 8).

Commissioner Baron moved to accept the Report of Counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and unanimously approved by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission meeting returned to an open public meeting on the motion of Commissioner Baron. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and unanimously approved by voice vote. The items discussed in closed session will be printed as part of the minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Baron moved to adopt Resolution No. 100-12 (Attachment No. 9), which includes Resolution No. 101-12 through Resolution No. 109-12 (Attachment No. 10 through No. 18). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schleicher and approved by roll call vote. Commissioner Wronski abstained from voting on Resolution 101-12.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Sette adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Santiago and was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



David D. Helmer
Executive Director



Valerie Coleman-Moore
Administrative Coordinator

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