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THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
DISTRIBUTION OF PARK COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Date

July 9, 2019

1. President Barbara Shepard
2. Vice President Stuart Lasser
3. Commissioner Anthony N. Abrantes, Sr.
4. Commissioner Julie C. Baron
5. Commissioner Betty Cass-Schmidt
6. Commissioner William A. Cogger
7. Commissioner Edward G. McCarthy
8. Commissioner Richard Seabury, III
9. Commissioner Mathew Tal
10. Executive Director David D. Helmer
11. Freeholder Liaison Deborah Smith
12. File – 2

THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

300 Mendham Road

Morristown, New Jersey

President Shepard called to order the 881st meeting of the Morris County Park Commission at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2019 at the Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morristown, 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 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 9th day of July, 2019 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, on the Morris County Park Commission website, 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 Barbara Shepard
Vice President Stuart Lasser
Commissioner Julie Baron
Commissioner Betty Cass-Schmidt
Commissioner William Cogger
Commissioner Edward McCarthy
Commissioner Richard Seabury, III

Executive Director David D. Helmer
Deputy Executive Director Richard Vitale
Counsel John Suminski

Also in attendance were the following staff:

Assistant Deputy Director of Cultural & Environmental Resources Zafonte, Director of Recreational Facilities Fauci, Director of Park Planning & Development Chaplick, Assistant Director of Historic Sites Laffey, Assistant Deputy Director/Development Lanza, Director of Parks and Visitor Services Biase, Superintendent of Natural Resources Kovacevic, Manager of Marketing & Communications McClellan, Superintendent of Horticultural Education Fahey, Manager of Park Maintenance Tode, Recreation Supervisor Robertson, Manager of Safety and Compliance Rack, Trail Assistant Edmunds, and Purchasing Manager Cho. Park Maintenance Staff from the South Unit present for a period of the meeting including Foreman of the South Unit Jeff Kruger and Special Projects Foreman Andrew Poirier.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

PRESENTATIONS

At the request of President Shepard, Manager of Park Maintenance Tode presented to the Commission a presentation of the new Loantaka Brook Reservation Kitchell Pond Area Shelter and Patio Project. He showed the Commission the before and after pictures of the shelter. He stated that they are trying to upgrade a lot of the existing structures in conjunction with the Building

and Construction Division. The project took approximately one month, and it was led by the Foreman of Special Projects Andrew Poirier, Foreman of the South Division, Jeff Kruger, Sergio Espolita from the South Side, Devon Hall from the West Side and Ray Rivera of the South Side. These men have experience with this type of work. Manager Tode said that in the last year they have changed around and reallocated our resources, and are able to do projects like this so that we don't have to wait and bid it out to accomplish these items.

President Shepard commented that the men do awesome work on projects, and she feels that it often goes unrecognized by the public. Government employees sometimes get bad raps, and she wanted to say thank you, because they continue to amaze her with their projects.

Manager Tode stated that Foreman Poirier, who was hired about three years ago, has a lot of experience with this type of work in the residential sector and we have been able to draw upon that experience here at the Park Commission.

Executive Director Helmer also stated that we have been contacted by the Rose City Runners, who literally make this shelter their home all year long. This group provides a donation to the Park Alliance on an annual basis. They were extremely appreciative since they were worried that the shelter was going away, and that shelter was their only warming station.

The pavers also make it easier for people who are wheelchair bound to get to the shelter itself. This is the area that has been taken over by geese over the years, and it is slowly coming back to life again.

Foreman Poirier stated that the Building and Construction crew did a wonderful job to brighten up the inside of the shelter and it all tied together very well.

Executive Director Helmer introduced Superintendent of Horticulture Education Ann Fahey, who has been working on a program at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum with the Morristown High School Vocational Horticultural Therapy Program called the Colonial L.I.F.E. Program. She has recently received a certification of acknowledgment from that program.

Superintendent Fahey's presentation, gave her an opportunity to show the Commission what she has been doing since she came to the Park Commission. Her presentation included an explanation of the background and history of the program, and an explanation of the program itself. She also gave a definition of what Horticultural Therapy actually is.

Ann Fahey stated that she is very grateful to the Park Commission for supporting this program. It is a program that enables you to engage the kids, along with their families and the school system.

Vice President Lasser asked Manager McClellan if there had been any publicity done on this and, if not, maybe we could do so in the future. He feels that this is the type of information the Park Commission should disseminate in order to benefit kids and the Park Commission.

Executive Director Helmer pointed out that the area Ann Fahey spoke about in her presentation was the Scherer garden. Judge Scherer and his family had made the first donations while the judge

was still alive. Upon his passing, donations were made to the shelter shown in the background of one of the slides. Originally, the beds were raised so that if someone was wheelchair-bound they could work in the gardens. Over the past few years we have added beds that are on rollers now. There was a major enhancement a few years ago when the Building and Construction staff made some changes.

Director Zafonte added that the garden was originally dedicated to Judge Scherer's wife, who was a special needs teacher.

Executive Director Helmer introduced Manager of Safety and Compliance Rack, who will give a report on the use of glyphosate in the park system. Executive Director Helmer stated that the Bayer Company, which produces Round Up, was sued in California in two different cases. Users were not made aware that Round Up is potentially carcinogenic and can cause Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in some individuals. By chance, the County Administrator reached out to ask whether the Park Commission uses Round Up. Staff had already been discussing other types of materials that we could use throughout the Park Commission that may be more beneficial.

Manager of Safety and Compliance Rack explained that we have approximately six different products that we use in the Park Commission that contain Glyphosate as the primary or active ingredient. It is a general-purpose herbicide, which means it kills the entire plant; it goes all the way to the root and destroys it. This is why it has become so popular. It is widely used in both agriculture and horticulture, and the general public uses it, too.

Recently, glyphosate has been alleged to cause cancer and it has been banned in California and in Austria, even though the European Union does not consider it a carcinogen. The Park Commission uses it for general weed control on poison ivy and woody plants that are very difficult to kill. There are several current cases, including three recent cases that have been settled. The first one was in March of this year for 80 million dollars. The second one was also in March of this year for 78 million dollars, and the third case just settled in May in which a couple was awarded 2 billion dollars. There are 10,000 additional cases pending. There may be some link here, but there is a lot of information that goes both ways. Some studies state there is no scientific data to show that it causes cancer and others state that there is a connection. The hard part is trying to figure out if it is true.

In our case, we discussed how much Round Up we use and how to protect the employees who are currently using this product. It is important to consider the public perception of our using this chemical in the Park Commission. Is there an alternative we can use?

First, we want to see how much we use. For the last two years, we have used approximately 50 gallons throughout the entire Park Commission. We do not have a lot, and we really do not use very much of it. Horticulture and Natural Resources have done a study and we used approximately 16 gallons last year. We use a little more in Park Maintenance, but we don't really rely on it all that much. So far this year, Horticulture has used less than five gallons. If we decide to stop using it, it probably won't make a huge impact on us and how we do our jobs.

We have decided to test a number of alternative products. We have narrowed it down to four, and staff has found a test spot at one of the fence lines in Lewis Morris County Park. It is near one of the storage areas, so the public won't be affected at all. Basically, we will take sections of fence that are covered in weeds, use a different product on each one, and do a side by side comparison to try to decide which product works best for us and has the least chemical hazards in it.

Manager Rack stated that Prizefighter, an alternative product, also has quite a number of hazards associated with it. There is a lot of personal protective equipment that needs to be worn with some of these items. For example, Pulverize has no hazardous ingredients at all. Manager Rack is hoping that Pulverize works well.

We could increase our mechanical weed control weed whackers, doing closer mowing. In some places, such as playgrounds, we might have to do some manual weed control.

Staff, especially in Horticulture, has begun a more extensive use of per-emergence which is put down in the early spring and keeps the weeds from growing in the first place. Staff did some research and, in 2018, we used about 75 lbs. of per-emergence while this year so far we have already used 150 lbs. We are going towards a different product - a safer product, hopefully, to control the weeds that way. We will try to do a study and make recommendations. Hopefully, we will start this week. We are still waiting for some of the products we ordered to come in; hopefully by next week we will have some idea as to which ones are working better than others and then we can make some recommendations to the Personnel and Safety Committee.

Executive Director Helmer asked what the proper procedure for Round Up was. Manager Rack responded that the company recommends long pants, long sleeve shirts, gloves and safety glasses. Nothing else is needed, and it isn't yet known how the material gets into your system and causes cancer. Is it via skin absorption, inhalation or by ingesting it? We may never know. Manager Rack then said that some other products, such as Prizefighter, also require the same protective procedures as Round Up; however, they also recommend a face mask over the safety glasses. With Pulverize, there are no hazards, and they do not recommend any personal protective equipment. Each one is a little different, but most require gloves and safety glasses. Round Up is used all over the world, and Monsanto makes about six billion dollars a year in sales of Round Up. Commissioner Seabury said that he uses vinegar on the weeds in his driveway and that it works rather well. However, Manager Rack said that the alternate methods will burn the leaves but will not kill the root.

PROMOTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Executive Director Helmer stated that he has sent the Commission several emails on the HAB that is affecting Lake Hopatcong and other bodies of water in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York. It has affected Lake Hopatcong and, specifically, Lee's County Park Marina. During the last few weeks, he has participated in conference calls set up by the DEP and the Governor's office with local officials. To date, there hasn't been much change, and the bloom is still on the lake. It hasn't reached the highest level of toxicity, but the advisories were still out about not coming in contact with the water. Just this weekend, we heard that there are people swimming in the northern part of the lake where the bloom was first seen. However, Executive Director Helmer feels that the state will not be lifting the ban on part of the lake. Although you may not see the bloom on top of the water, it could be below the water line.

To give a general idea of the revenue impact at the site, although the first notifications happened at the end of June, we actually had a pretty good June this year compared to last year and our revenue was up about \$9,000.00. This is all based on daily launches and related components. For example, if a boater invites other people and they each bring a separate car, there is a fee for each car on site. Last year, for the first seven days of July, we had 641 daily launches, while this year we had 81. Last year's revenue for daily launches for those seven days was \$17,000.00; this year, for the same 7 days, revenue was about \$2,100.00.

At this point, we are still a little bit ahead of the game from last year because we did have a good June and did raise some of the fees at the site. It is projected that the first seven days were off about 87% in launches and revenue. If that continues through October, our revenue could be off by about \$80,000.00. July has always been the best month from a daily launch perspective. Director Fauci stated that people are not going out; he was at Lee's Marina, and everything has practically come to a standstill. Executive Director Helmer stated that it is affecting the businesses on the lake. The State continues to do aerial surveys every two days and water testing every two days. He will keep everyone informed if there is any new information. We have signs up at Lee's Marina.

Vice President Lasser asked if we have emailed individuals who have slips at the Marina. Executive Director Helmer stated that we have reached out to slip owners, and the biggest issue for our facility as compared to most other marinas is that the private marinas are making their additional revenue off provisioning and gas, while we make our revenue, for the most part, on the daily launches. That is a little more difficult to inform the public, and there were some releases going out early on that discussed a ban on the lake. There was never a ban on boating; it was just for human contact with the water. The State was trying to get the message out through the DEP. Daily launchers generally only want to access the water to go swimming off the boat and to sail. The rowing club was informed that, due to the proximity of crew boats to the water, there is too much contact, so they have stopped practicing.

It looks like it's not only the natural occurrence of this type of water but that, due to the amount of rains and the fact that septic systems around the lake have been so inundated with water, the leach fields and such may have exacerbated the problem. In the past, it has mainly stayed in the cove areas, but they really haven't seen it to this magnitude. On the Hopatcong side, many people are continuing to draw water from the lake for their sinks and showers, and Hopatcong went house-to-house to notify people of this problem.

The DEP Commissioner has been on the phone twice; there is no treatment at this time. Someone from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Group has been working on testing small pond areas with regard to another type of bacteria that could eat these bacteria, but nothing of the level that it is.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if this was the year of the five-foot drawdown. Executive Director Helmer said that it was not. Commissioner McCarthy stated that it is always a concern that when they lower the water, the water grows warmer, the sunlight penetrates deeper, and the weeds come up quicker.

Executive Director Helmer stated that people believe it has a lot to do with the septic systems. Bacteria attaches itself to the silt, and you can pull the weed, but it is staying in the silt. When you get that perfect storm of small amounts of rain and high heat that keeps it moving.

With regard to prevention, aerators can keep the water moving. Unfortunately, if you have the aerators on, it actually breaks the bacteria up and lets the toxins out.

We will keep getting the message out that the lake is open for boating, but people who are bringing their boats in on a daily basis will find other places to go.

Commissioner Cogger asked if it could have a permanent effect. Executive Director Helmer responded that it possibly could, and that the bacteria may always be present but not bloom. It can still be in that body of water and the same scenario can occur again.

Mennen Sports Arena

The next item relates to Mennen Sports Arena and the Colgate Property redevelopment. Carlos Villar, Chief Operating Engineer at Mennen Arena, was told by JCP&L that they were getting ready to decommission the existing switchgear that services Rink 1. Manager Villar has already set up a meeting on site; the participants of the meeting were various JCP&L representatives, the developer of housing on the former Colgate property, and the earth-moving contractor. They are going to set a pole by our entranceway to the left-hand side and will draw a line underground from that location down to the switchgear box that serves Rinks 2 and 3. Manager Villar said we are already prepared. When we constructed Rink 3, there were already underground conduits to the building. We requested that this activity happen after hours, because if we lose power we have to shut the building down. We also feel a little safer if these major electrical connections do not happen with the public on site.

There has been some discussion about what the overtime cost to JCP&L will be. We want them to let us know the costs and whether we are contributing or partly contributing and whether Lenar will contribute, too. Lenar is looking to energize their property, so they will be installing another pole on the other side of the driveway on the East Hanover side. Lenar is trying to figure out how we can do this work together.

Between the mark outs and the paperwork process it takes two to three weeks for this work to begin. It could take up to 8 hours for the work to be done.

Rink 2 has been shut down for 3 to 5 weeks. We typically don't shut down Rink 2; it hasn't been down for 10 years. In the past, there has been some significant heaving on the ice slab and the perimeter slab, and staff has been able to maintain it over the years. We are keeping the rink down so long to let the heat try to penetrate the slab area to see if we can get a settling of the slab at all.

The Building & Construction crew and Mennen crew have gotten the dasher boards level and there is a distinct difference. A major cleaning has occurred on Rink 2. Director Fauci stated that the perimeter has dropped about a half-inch to three-quarters of an inch when they did testing, which is substantial.

Sunrise Lake Beach Club

Recreation Supervisor Robertson gave a presentation on Sunrise Lake Beach Club. She showed slides of the lake and the attractions that are available to members. She also showed the rentable areas at the lake and discussed all the programs that are available, such as the Camp Out on the Beach. She explained what Camp Out on the Beach is and said that it has been successful. She also described the camp programs and how successful they have been, this year they actually had a waiting list for the camp programs.

Recreation Supervisor Robertson then spoke on the Wibit, which is the main attraction for the lake. It is new this year. We have 16 pieces for it - almost twice the size of what we had in the past. Last year over 2,000 passes were sold for the Wibit; this year there are two lifeguards on it, and she feels that this is why camp sell out - because the children really enjoy going on this.

Supervisor Robertson pointed out that the recent trend seems to be that with holidays and weekends. Starting last year, there was a big trend with Fourth of July and on Sundays going into July and August. We are hitting max capacity and are completely selling out. This usually happens between 12 and 2:30, and there is definitely an increase in attendance.

On holidays, there are waitlists that go up to about 100 families, and they wait about 45 minutes. As families exit, we do head counts and let more people in as quickly as possible. On Memorial Day 450 beach passes were sold, not including children under five. For the entire weekend, we had 866 beach passes, and on Fourth of July there was 526. Supervisor Robertson also explained to the Commission the staff requirements and the number of staff that are required at the lake.

She explained the new software that they are using with staff this year, which helps them correspond with staff members. It is free and it enables them to schedule shifts, assign tasks and message staff directly. She showed the Commission how the software actually works.

Executive Director Helmer asked Recreation Supervisor Robertson to explain how we communicate with parents whose children are attending the camp. She explained that it is called Remind, which is a free app, and all parents of children who are attending camp are asked to use it. This way it is easy to communicate with them regarding storms, theme day, etc. It gives them a more direct connection with the counselor.

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Historic Sites

Assistant Director of Historic Sites Laffey provided a review of the status of the various grant applications. She reported on the number of grants and the types of grants she and her staff have worked on. The grants were either for either project based support or general operating support. As of July 1, the Historic Sites Department has received notifications for four of those grant applications and all four of them have been awarded to the Park Commission.

From the New Jersey Maker's Day organization a \$700.00 grant was received for supplies for a program at the Cooper Grist Mill and Historic Speedwell. In May they were awarded a grant from CCAHA, an organization for art and historic artifacts. This will be a two-year project focusing on paper-based collections. It is a \$500.00 match per year.

In June, we were notified about the Morris County Historic Preservation Grant to which we had applied. The first one was for the Willows Porches and Arches Restoration. It was the largest grant application applied for this year, and we were awarded \$313,787.00. This is going towards construction costs to restore the arches and porches. We have had to shore up the arches and, basically, the front porches are all fenced off, so you can't go on them. Based on the architect's cost estimates, the project will cost \$392,234.00, and the grant actually covers 80% of the construction costs.

The second was a Morris County Historic Preservation Grant for which we were awarded \$11,480.00 towards the creation of construction documents for the waterwheel at Historic Speedwell. We haven't been able to use the waterwheel in almost two years. There is a lot of rot and the buckets have rusted out, and we have had problems getting a millwright who is qualified to do this type of work. Our match is \$2,870.00. The Freeholders will be voting on the recommendations at their July meeting and everything should be signed off on. In August the grant agreements get created and it will go to the Commissioners for signature in September, with an anticipated start date in October.

We are waiting for a NEH Grant notification that will happen by the end of August. There is our general operating support and it will be sometime next month. We had three New Jersey Historic Trust applications. Assistant Director Laffey met with the New Jersey Historic Trust grant administrators and they did site visits to Historic Speedwell and the Mt. Hope Miner's Church. In total, about 6 million dollars has been requested from various agencies and they will be allocating about 3 million dollars.

Assistant Director Laffey continued to bring the Commission up to date on the status of all the grants, and Commissioner Cass-Schmidt asked about how much money we have received from the nine grants. Assistant Director Laffey responded that we have received over \$300,000.00, and our largest grant application was the Willows Porches and Arches for \$313,000.00, and right now, we have approximately \$330,000.00.

Matilda's Cafe

Director Zafonte gave the Commission an update on the status of Matilda's Café at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. He stated that we have hit a dead end as far as getting another food vendor into the café. Staff came up with the idea of putting in an art studio. Executive Director Helmer gave Director Zafonte a contact name for the Morris Arts Council Executive Director; he and staff met with him in early spring. About a month ago a couple of local artists, Beth Murphy and Nina Nemeth, contacted us and we asked them to put a proposal together for us. We have decided to try to see if we can work something out.

One of the artists has a business based out of Basking Ridge, called Beth Murphy's Botanicals. She does a lot of pressed flower artwork. Nina Nemeth has a Master's of Fine Arts, and they both have been involved with the Morris Arts Council. They sent a proposal and they have planned to do a pilot program next month in August to feel it out. If it goes well, they'll put together a more robust program of classes for the fall. We are hoping that this builds up some steam. They will

not have exclusive use of the building; we will still be using the building for our own purposes. We have done some things in there; we will still have space for that.

We are charging the artists based on our Fee Schedule; and if an entity would be using a section of our park for a class, based on the attendance number. We are going to use that approach; however, they are not opposed to giving us a percentage, as well. Insurance did not seem to be a problem with either of them.

Commissioner Baron asked what they were going to teach. Director Zafonte responded that they feel the Arboretum presents a good setting for having workshops and classes for the public, art events, and also to work with local artists as a gallery for possible use as a gallery for viewing and selling artwork.

Commissioner Seabury inquired as to what had happened to the food preparation equipment that was in the café. Director Zafonte stated that there really was not that much in there. There is a bakery display case, an under counter refrigerator, and microwave, and that is all going to stay in there. There will not be any alterations to accomplish this.

Vice President Lasser felt that the art council's idea was great, and wondered if anyone had ever thought about doing something with music - possibly using it as a place for chamber music or a practice area.

Executive Director Helmer stated that we would be receptive to any group that may want to use it as a practice area. We are trying to maximize the space that we have.

Director Zafonte informed the Commission that this month at the Haggerty Education Center we have a gallery exhibit - the Rockaway Valley Garden Club's Wildflower photo exhibit. We are very pleased to have them in there exhibiting. A couple of members will be putting on a wildflower program for the public. This garden club does so much for us by maintaining the Hammond Wildflower Trail in Tourne County Park.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Director Zafonte gave the Commission an update on the New Jersey Community Forestry Management Plan, which we became involved with a few years ago. This plan was enacted through the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. We were interested in this with the onset of EAB. It makes grant money available to municipalities and counties that are approved under this act. One of the steps for approval to receive grant money is to have a Community Forestry Plan in place.

Director Zafonte went on to give some additional background on the program. He stated that we did start on it a few years ago, and they are working with a consultant on the plan who has done other plans for other municipalities. In addition to the plan, we need to have core-trained individuals in the entities, an employee, a volunteer, and we need CEU has to go along with this. We also need to submit an annual report of accomplishments every year. It is a five-year plan, which outlines the goals for each of those years.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS/PARK MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Morris Canal Hikes

Tom Edmunds of the trail group gave a report on a new hiking program being established in cooperation with the Canal Society of New Jersey. He said that some years ago we partnered with the Canal Society of New Jersey to do a series of walks in Morris County on the Morris Canal Greenway. They found out that there were many relics left from the Canal. He described the trail and its location, pointing out areas where the canal was located. The group has decided to work on about five areas. Some are walking areas and some will require hiking. He further described the many interesting areas this group intends to work on with their new program. Tom Edmunds also explored in depth the history of the Canal and presented many interesting facts.

Presentation on Opportunity to Partner with Service and Conservation Corps

Executive Director Helmer stated that he feels that this is a good initiative to collaborate with this program for the NJ/NY Trail Conference on a number of levels. We had a meeting with this group a couple of weeks ago and he feels that there is good opportunity for this project.

Director Chaplick gave a presentation on the opportunities that we would be able to have with this group. She pointed out that we have a need for experienced trail builders and that some of our volunteers have aged out. We also need many services; not only to help build a trail, but with training, design, and advocacy. Director Chaplick recently attended the International Trails Symposium in Syracuse, New York, hoping to find some of these people. They are an arm of the New Jersey Trails Conference. This comes under the umbrella that is called the core network, comprised of conservation corps throughout the country. Director Chaplick also explained the group's main purpose and that the participants are looking to build a skill base.

This program offers a stipend; it is also meant to be a mentoring program. In the case of the New Jersey Trails Conference, their conservation corps is assigned to trail work. Dr. Chaplick explained to the Commission what a conservation corps is, and said there are 130 across the country. This is a non-profit partner.

Director Chaplick gave an in-depth history and presented a slide presentation on the work that they do. Director Chaplick and Executive Director Helmer answered questions raised by some of the Commissioners as to how this might relate to the Commission.

Director Chaplick stated that the board and leadership of the group has evolved, and they embrace multiple users. They are recently working with JORBA to collaborate on hiking and biking designs implementations. They are evolving in their concepts of what accommodations are and who should be accommodated. Jeff Hamilton is the core leader and manages the crews. He is retired from the Army and is very dedicated and passionate about building the crews and educating them in this realm of the world.

Executive Director Helmer stated that our current trail crews have their hands full with the linear greenway activities, and we are not concentrating on the more natural trails. This will benefit the County trail program. Some towns are having trouble finding expertise in these non-transportation trails, and the state trail program is currently under a federal audit for the recreational trails

program. If you are a municipal leader, those grants are capped at \$24,000.00 or \$25,000.00 and we believe that that is going to be increased. Most states are now at \$60,000.00, and the federal government wants to see more productive money out there. A town could use the dollars from that grant to hire the conservation corps to do that work. You are not dealing with prevailing wages; you are dealing with people who understand the natural trails, bridges, and invasive plant removal and you will find a more honed individual for this trail project. We are up to 212 miles of trail, most of which is not a paved linear trail; most of it is in single type trails. Over the years, there have been issues with the NJ/NY Trail conference from a communication aspect, where they were doing certain things in the park - specifically at Pyramid Mountain and Lewis Morris County Park into the national park. This is a different arm, and we could be the first in New Jersey to tap this resource at this level. It is affordable, it can be paid through the Park Improvement Trust Fund (not through operating), and you can see some great accomplishments here. The stone steps at Bear Mountain State are an incredible engineering project, all done by hand.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if they were fixing old trails and not giving us new trail miles. Executive Director Helmer stated it could include both the refurbishment of an existing trail or the rerouting of another trail. They could do the same thing as in that AMC report we had done years ago, and they showed us what they have done. Some years ago, when the state was updating the flood hazard rules, Peter was able to get the state to approve a primitive trail as it relates to flood hazard areas in the wetlands. New rule changes were made, and he was the lead on that and showed us some of the drawings. We would be getting some people who are knowledgeable about these activities. In addition, this could be a good resource - not only for the Park Commission, but also for the towns. They also spoke about the fact that they may come in for a 900 to 1200 hour seasonal session working on the same project for those hours; sometimes they may want a break and will leave here and go to another town project for another initiative. We asked them for an anticipated budget for a season, and then we would get a better idea.

Director Chaplick pointed out that one of the differences between the conservation corps and the student corps is that the conservation corps does all the project management directly. They manage the daily crew and their weekly workload, and there is one point person who comes to the land manager to get approvals, whereas with the student conservation corps, the land manager was expected to do the big lifts with managing crews and directing daily tasks. This is a big help for us since we don't have the staff to be out directing daily and weekly tasks. We are the bigger decision makers or collaborators with them for the daily workloads.

President Shepard asked if there was a way to create the agreement without the involvement of other Morris County Municipalities. Executive Director Helmer stated we would get an MOU into the agreement and the cost wouldn't change, since the individuals get a stipend of X dollar amount. If they go after a grant it may be offset by the grant. Council Suminski is working on opinions lately regarding working with non-profits, and that is why it looks as though we might have to go to a competitive contracting bid process. However, he feels that we would be able to craft that. This could also help our county trail program and give those towns an affordable resource so we are not going out hiring a large company to design this rustic ½-mile trail. Once again, it is the affordability of it. You have to make sure the players on that side are the ones who are educated in moving forward and you do not get a huge change on their part. They have changed their mission that has softened hiking only. They have actively worked with JORBA and this past

National Trails day was their first JORBA NJ/NY Trails Conference project. Those relationships will help us in many of our facilities where they have a strong presence and can offer advice. We can either see our trails continue to deteriorate and be willing to give up a little. We have that with Superintendent Kovacevic's oversight and other field staff's oversight and knowledge base, and the exciting part is to try and get the invasive removal crews that are in New York right now into New Jersey. He is sure that Superintendent Kovacevic would be interested in that happening also.

They are a New Jersey-based, 100-year-old, established entity based out of Mahwah. Executive Director Helmer stated that he finds very few negatives in collaborating with them, especially since we cannot find an outside independent entity.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Director Helmer also stated that over the last couple of years we have discussed Senate Bill No. 2424, which requires recreation departments and youth-serving organizations to have defibrillators for use at athletic events. The Bill was released to Committee in the Senate and the NRPA has met with the sponsoring Senators. We supply defibrillators at Mennen Sports Arena, our golf courses, and most of our indoor facilities. The concern is that at any youth athletic event, cross country race, softball game, baseball game, soccer, lacrosse, etc. we would have to have a defibrillator on-site at each of those game locations. We may curb that activity because we don't know if on a particular day the Kinnelon softball team would be using the ballfield at Silas Condict County Park, or if we have runners at Central Park. It's not that our Park Police can't get to those locations within five minutes; however, the County Park Directors have been expressing the feeling that the defibrillator should be the responsibility of the organization running the event. Executive Director Helmer stated that he is sure that at Central Park, where we just had a large girls' lacrosse college review event, that a professional organization like that has one and they also hire an ambulance squad to be there. Even in a given park - for example, here at Lewis Morris Park - we have three ball fields here. It takes more than five minutes to get from one ballfield to the next, so a defibrillator hanging on the backstop will probably disappear, although there is a company who can track them wirelessly, but then you will have to have wireless settings.

We are hopeful in pushing our prospective on this matter, and in the report to our Freeholder Liaison Deb Smith we have asked them to touch base with our local legislators who have not tapped into this yet. But the coaches and people running the league should be responsible just as they are for having first aid kits and trainers on site.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Helmer reported that he had hoped to have the Willowood Foundation and Park Alliance here to report, but both cancelled at the last minute. However, they have confirmed that they will be here for the October Workshop meetings.

Green Acres has finally approved the Riparian Mitigation Project on which we are cooperating with Greenest, and that is the project that will happen at Passaic River County Park in Long Hill Township. Along with that project, a conservation easement was placed on the work area and the Park Commission receives \$20,000.00 per acre in that area which will go in to a trust for Natural Resources Projects.

The Assistant Director of Parks provided Executive Director Helmer with an updated EAB map. Currently, 93 towns have been identified with the Emerald Ash Borer and 15 of the 21 Counties have spotted it. It is mostly the southern counties - Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Ocean - that have had no AEB sightings.

The Mosquito Department has placed mosquito resting box traps at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation this past week, and they are also going to be dropping off some of the mosquito eating fish in a number of small ponding areas at Mt. Hope Historical Park.

We have received word from the National 911 Memorial Trail Committee that there is a sponsored Resolution for both the Senate and Congress to support the National 911 Memorial Trail. That is the project that we have been participating in for quite some time. They think it will have the President's approval for supporting that initiative.

Manager McClellan held the video day at Fosterfields on the 28th and everything went well that day. She received positive emails from every family member who participated, stating how wonderful it was to see Fosterfields and what a great experience it was.

A thank you note was received from an individual regarding the off leash area of Central Park of Morris County and what a wonderful facility it is.

We also have two requests for picnic fee waivers. The first is from the President of the County College of Morris who is trying to book a picnic at Hedden County Park on Monday, July 15. The college is looking to have a \$120.00 fee waived. The second is a Fee Waiver from the Interfaith Food Pantry for the use of the picnic tent at Central Park of Morris County on Friday, September 13, from 4 to 8 pm. It's usually a \$110.00 rental fee. The Interfaith Pantry is a non-profit headquartered at Central Park of Morris County.

President Shepard made the motion to accept the Report of the Executive Director, Commissioner McCarthy made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Baron and unanimously approved by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shepard asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 105-19 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." Commissioner Cass-Schmidt made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner McCarthy. **(Attachment No. 1)**

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REPORT OF COUNSEL

Correspondence was sent to Wheelers Municipal Profit Sharing on July 2, 2016 expressing the Park Commission's interest in acquiring a lot they own in Kinnelon Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Shepard adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. The motion was made by Commissioner Cass-Schmidt. It was seconded by Commissioner McCarthy and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE]

David D. Helmer
Executive Director

[ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE]

Katherine Petro
Office Manager

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 105-19

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Morris County Park Commission on this 9th day of July 2019, that:

1. Prior to the conclusion of this regular meeting of the Morris County Park Commission, which regular meeting has been opened to the public, the Morris County Park Commission shall meet in Executive Session, from which the public shall be excluded, to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition, and report of counsel, as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5), (6), (7), and (8), the pertinent provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act.”
2. The time when the matters discussed pursuant to paragraph #1 hereof can be disclosed to the public is as soon as practicable after the final resolution of the aforesaid matters.

July 9, 2019

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Barbara Shepard
President

_____, I, David D. Helmer, Executive Director of the Morris County Park Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Morris County Park Commission at a meeting held on July 9, 2019 at the Park Commission offices, 300 Mendham Road, Morristown, New Jersey.