

August 2015 MARC Minutes

Attendees:

Jon Beam

Will Carswell

Tyler Dombroski

Heather Good

Bill Hause

Jamie Hosterman

Chris Johns

Bill Lavage

Mike Mills

Bob Stoudt

Dave Walker

Jerry Ward

Public:

Jenn Kline

Ralph Schumacher

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mike Mills.

President/Treasurer Report – Mike Mills:

Mike provided a copy of the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Tyler Dombroski to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Jamie Hosterman; approved unanimously

Appointment of Montour County representative Heather Good

Appointment of Riverside Borough representative Bill Lavage

Both Heather and Bill were approved as new representatives of their respective municipalities prior to the board meeting via email vote. Mike welcomed both new members to our board.

Secretary's Report – Tyler Dombroski:

Tyler provided an overview of the previous month's minutes. Motion made by to Jerry Ward accept the Secretary's Report; seconded by Bill Hause; approved unanimously.

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – Tyler reported that had held its community work day to plant flower gardens along PA Route 54 and Strawberry Ridge Road. The day went smoother than anticipated thanks to strong community turnout. Tyler thanked Bob and MARC as well as the Columbia/Montour County Master Gardeners for their help on the project. Bob showed the board pictures that were posted on the MARC Facebook page.

Danville – Bill Hause reported that the Borough looks to use CDBG funds to install restrooms at FQ Hartman.

Bill also commented that Bob did a great job of helping to participating with the coordination of the Danville Heritage Festival but that he should have had more supporting help. Particularity, more volunteer coordination was needed at the quoits tournament. Both Bob and Bill feel that more defined expectations need to be established for the 2016 event. Bob also reported that he has still not received a donation to MARC from the USQA who coordinated the quoits tournament.

Bill also reported that the borough had approved the use of their codes office for the establishment of Washingtonville's codes program. Tyler thanked Bill for the borough's collaboration.

Riverside – Bill Lavage declined to make a report.

Montour County – Jerry Ward discussed the recent Acky property agreement near the head of the NBCT. Jerry also reported that the Commissioners had recently received their Act 13 funding which is critical to MARC's budget. With the receipt of these funds, Bob feels that MARC is in strong budgetary shape at this point in time.

Danville Area School District – Chris and Jamie declined to make a report.

Public Comment:

Jenn Kline reported that the Hopewell Park trails need maintenance attention. Bob stated that Dave Decoteau sent an email earlier in the day about an upcoming workday. Bob then reviewed that Danville Borough has specific guidelines that must be followed when work takes place on these trails.

Assistant Director's Report – Jon Beam:

Jon reported that during the past two months, he continued work on the Hopewell Park kiosk, adding a new roof and some framing. He conducted weekly checks of the East Branch Recreation Area and checked Hess Field Recreation Area while Bob was on vacation. Jon also recorded four Nature Reports for SECV8 News and conducted three trail walks for 30 children and 10 counselors as part of Zion

Lutheran Church's Summer Program. He also assisted Bob and volunteers in the set up for and tear down after the Montour 24 Endurance Race at Hess Field.

Bob reported that he and Mike Mills had also recently completed Jon's six month performance review which went very well.

Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Director's report provided as part of the agenda packet.

Bob reported that he still had not received an official announcement from the Williams Transco Pipeline grant. Trish Crothers of the Susquehanna Greenway had informed him that she did receive documentation to execute and return to their grant program. Bob stated the he has been in contact with Brinkash and Associates to begin design work for the bridges/culverts.

Bob also discussed his wishes to chip and tar the access road to Hess Field. He also reported on the Valley Township sewer lateral project which will likely have the trail system closed down into October. Bob also reported that there have been numerous Black Bear sightings in recent weeks.

Bob stated that there has been no update regarding Talen's execution of the revised Montour Preserve agreement. Little change has happened in weeks.

Bob gave an overview of the year to date profits/losses for the RTRS. All events to date have turned a profit except the Worlds End race and the Robbins Run. Both had just slight losses. Bob stressed that the Worlds End race is not a county race and the importance of having a 5k race regarding the Robbins Run.

Bob also reported that the East Branch Recreation Area is getting strong use and that he has another upcoming Boy Scout project.

Expense report provided as part of the agenda packet. Motion made by Chris Johns to approve these bills; seconded by Joe Ward; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Montour Township (Columbia Co.) License Agreement

MARC currently does not have official access to the area it is obligated to mow for the NBCT. A house was recently torn down in the township which has an access road to the area that MARC is obligated to mow. The township has drafted an agreement to allow MARC to use this access road indefinitely in exchange that MARC mows the plot of land on which the house once sat. Columbia County funds will be used to pay for mowing this area.

Motion made by Jerry Ward to approve the agreement; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Potential Cancellation of Chili Challenge

Talen Energy has still not approved the revised lease agreement with MARC. Due to the uncertainty of the approval of the agreement and due to the fact that MARC has not received permission to hold the Chili Challenge if the agreement is not approved by October, there is simply not enough time for MARC to prepare for this event. Even if event preparation were to start immediately, Bob estimates there would be a \$3,000-\$4,000 loss.

Motion made by Jerry Ward to postpone this event until 2016; seconded by Bill Hause; approved unanimously.

As a potential replacement event, the Danville Area Community Center (DACC) has approached MARC about helping to coordinate their 20th annual 5k later this year. DACC has stated that they would split the profits from this race with MARC 50/50. Bob will be in South Dakota in November which is when this race is scheduled to take place. The board felt comfortable working with DACC as long as we can get enough volunteers to help with this event. Bob was to discuss with DACC representatives about the official details of working with their organization.

2016 RTRS event dates

Bob reviewed the tentative 2016 RTRS event schedule and dates. The Humdinger, Half Marathon, Worlds End Race, and Montour 24 will likely be held on the same Saturday dates in 2016 as in 2015. '

The Chili Challenge will be held pending Talen Energy approval of the Montour Preserve lease agreement on the same Saturday schedule date as the proposed 2015 date.

The Robbins Run will likely be moved to a fall date due to the new June Old Forge race.

October 1 NBCT partial grand opening

The Columbia-Montour County Visitors' Bureau and the Susquehanna Greenway have been pushing for an opening ceremony for the NBCT.

October 1 was set as the partial grand opening ceremony for the NBCT. Approximately 150 trail signs still need to be installed prior to this. State and DCNR representatives will likely be in attendance.

Other Items:

Danville Heritage Festival overview

This item was previously covered under the Borough of Danville report.

Danville Business Alliance Wine in the Pines festival; DBA donation to MARC

Bob reported that coordination of this event went very well. DBA provided MARC with a generous donation to MARC in the amount of \$1,000 for Bob's help.

Kids' Marathon overview

Bob reported that 42 participants logged over 500 miles for this summer program. This event costs MARC less than \$100 to coordinate and many community groups are involved.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Jerry Ward to adjourn; seconded by Tyler Dombroski; approved unanimously.

Adjournment took place at 8:09 pm.