

September 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

NOTE: This meeting was conducted through the Zoom meeting platform due to COVID-19 restrictions. No in-person meeting was held.

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS

Tyler Dombroski, Frank Dombroski, Heather Good, Dr. Kendra Boell, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Dr. John Bulger, Bill Lavage, T.S. Scott, Kevin Herritt, Kyle Postupack, Chadd Roadarmel

MARC STAFF

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC

Wayne Kashner, Otto Kurecian (Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau), Ralph Schumacher, Donnie Johnson (Montour Solar), Taryne Williams (Talen Energy)

MEDIA

Joe Sylvester (Daily Item/Danville News)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Vice-Chairman Frank Dombroski.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donnie Johnson, Pattern Energy, introduced himself to the group and offered to answer questions regarding the proposed Montour Solar project.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Frank Dombroski noted that Chairman Mills was unable to attend the meeting. Vice-Chairman Dombroski welcomed Chadd Roadarmel as the new Danville Borough resident representative.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tyler Dombroski reviewed the reports provided in the meeting agenda packet and noted that the August 31, 2020 Statement of Financial Position report provided by Susan Shultz, CPA matched MARC's internal reports.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Dr. Kendra Boell

Second: T.S. Scott

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Stoudt noted that Secretary Chris Johns was unable to attend the meeting. Stoudt reported that an error had been noted in the August 24, 2020 minutes, failing to list Bill Lavage as attending the meeting. No other errors were noted.

Motion to approve the August 24, 2020 meeting minutes, with correction as noted: Tyler Dombroski

Second: Dr. Kendra Boell

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Mayor Tyler Dombroski reported on recent progress on the new swing set installation at DeLong Park. Mayor Dombroski commended MARC for its assistance with the project and thanked USG, the Central Susquehanna Valley Board of Realtors, and other supporters for their assistance with the project.

Mayor Dombroski also reported that a recent Facebook post had been made which asserted that the Montour Preserve was to be developed with solar panels as part of the proposed Montour Solar project. Mayor Dombroski reported that the post was being widely shared and asked whether Stoudt was aware of the post and whether MARC should respond to the post. Stoudt replied that he was aware of the post and believed it to be incorrect, but that he had not publicly commented on MARC's behalf, until conferring with MARC's Board members and confirming project details with representatives of Montour Solar. Donnie Johnson, attending the meeting on behalf of Pattern Energy, confirmed that no solar panel development was proposed within the Montour Preserve. With no objection from MARC members in attendance, Stoudt will release a public statement on MARC's behalf to provide correct information to the public regarding the project's impact on the Montour Preserve.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Kevin Herritt had no update to report. Stoudt noted that MARC hoped to learn in coming weeks whether the Borough of Danville's application to DCNR's 2020 Non-Motorized Trails grant program, seeking funding for the creation of a section of the North Branch Canal Trail atop the Borough's levee system, would be approved.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Bill Lavage and Kyle Postupack had nothing new to report at this time. Stoudt noted that plans are underway to celebrate the Borough of Riverside's 150th anniversary in 2021.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Hartman noted recent developments regarding the Montour Solar project. Commissioner Hartman noted that the project was still in the planning stages and no final decisions have been made by the various entities reviewing the project.

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Danville Area School District representative Chris Johns was unable to attend. No report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

T.S. Scott reported that work was underway to relocate the Montour County shooting range from its current location near Hopewell Park to a portion of the Danville Borough Farm property near the pig barn. Relocation of the range will allow possible other uses of the property.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted Beam's ongoing efforts with the weekly Nature Notes program and the PA Master Naturalist training program.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Reports provided in the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted Piatt's recent work at the Hess Recreation Area and Washingtonville Borough's DeLong Park.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report provided in meeting agenda packet. Stoudt called the group's attention to the close-out of the DCED Marketing to Attract Tourists grant for the Montour Preserve and noted the auditors' findings regarding MARC's accounting practices. Stoudt emphasized the Board's ongoing role in detecting fraud or other issues. Stoudt also called the group's attention to the information provided on pages 26 & 27 of the meeting agenda packet regarding the scope of MARC's operations in Montour County.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

3-POINT HITCH POST HOLE DIGGER PURCHASE

Stoudt recommended the purchase of a 3-point hitch post hole digger with 9" auger from Hoover Tractor as presented on page 29 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted the purchase price of \$650 would need to also include PA sales tax.

Motion to approve the purchase, to also include PA sales tax: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Second: Kevin Herritt

Motion passed unanimously

HESS RECREATION AREA TRAIL NAMING AND SIGNAGE

Stoudt presented an overview of the proposed renaming and signage project for the J. Manley Robbins Trail and Old Reading Line Trail at the Hess Recreation Area. Stoudt recommends new signage, as presented on pages 30 & 31 of the meeting agenda packet, to better serve park visitors and improve safety and emergency response. Existing, outdated, signage will be removed and replaced with new signage as soon as it can be obtained. New signage installation will be subject to approval by Danville Borough staff.

Motion to approve creation and installation of new signage as presented: Bill Lavage

Second: Tyler Dombroski

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

No other items for discussion.

Stoudt advised attendees that he anticipates presenting MARC's proposed 2021 mowing contract invitation to bid at the October meeting, as well as an initial discussion of MARC's 2021 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Dombroski asked to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm.

Motion: Tyler Dombroski

Second: Dr. Kendra Boell

The next MARC Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Stoudt
Acting Secretary