

September 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (online)

Brett Johnson, Kristin Mikita, Kyle Postupack, Elizabeth Rake

MARC BOARD MEMBERS (in person)

Frank Dombroski, Tyler Dombroski, Tami Gabrielsen, Marlene Gunther, Commissioner Dan Hartman, Chadd Roadarmel

MARC STAFF (online)

Craig Reinard

MARC STAFF (in person)

Bob Stoudt

PUBLIC (online)

Wayne Kashner

PUBLIC (in person)

John Zaktansky (Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association)

MEDIA (online)

Geri Gibbons (Press Enterprise) and Anna Wiest (Danville News / Daily Item)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tyler Dombroski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dombroski had nothing new to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Dr. Bulger, Stoudt called attention to the Treasurer's Report as provided on pages 2 – 18 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt called attention to the account earmarks as documented on page 11 of the agenda packet and provided updates on grant expenses incurred since MARC's August meeting.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Chadd Roadarmel

Second: Marlene Gunther

Motion passed unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of Secretary Johns, Chairman Dombroski called attention to the minutes of the August 28, 2023 meeting as distributed with the meeting agenda packet. No concerns or corrections were noted.

Motion to approve the August 28, 2023 meeting minutes: Frank Dombroski

Second: Marlene Gunther

Motion passed unanimously

PARTNER REPORTS

DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

No report; no representatives in attendance.

DANVILLE BOROUGH

Chadd Roadarmel had nothing to report.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP

Marlene Gunther had nothing to report.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Commissioner Dan Hartman noted his hope to have something to report at MARC's October meeting regarding possible new funding.

Brett Johnson had nothing to report.

RIVERSIDE BOROUGH

Elizabeth Rake had nothing to report.

WASHINGTONVILLE BOROUGH

Frank Dombroski noted the planned DeLong Hall Christmas Party, scheduled for Sunday, December 10, from 1pm – 3pm. The event will feature an appearance by Santa and a performance by Woody Wolfe.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to Julian Brehm's Assistant Director's report as provided on page 19 of the meeting agenda packet. Stoudt noted that most of the last month had been spent responding to storm damages at the Montour Preserve, Hess Recreation Area, and North Branch Canal Trail. Stoudt commended Brehm and Denny Piatt for their hard work to repair the various damages.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt called attention to the Director's Report provided on pages 20 – 33 of the meeting agenda packet.

Stoudt reported the voluntary resignation of Park and Trail Maintenance Technician Lesley Yeich, effective October 2. MARC's staff will plan to take Yeich to lunch to thank her for her service. Chairman Dombroski commended Yeich for her several years of work on MARC's behalf and noted the resignation was accepted with regret.

Stoudt reported a sharp increase in dog-related complaints at Hopewell Park and the Hess Recreation Area, including a reported dog bite at Hopewell Park on September 1. Stoudt discussed the ongoing challenge of managing dogs at MARC-managed properties and noted the strong feelings expressed for and against allowing dogs at parks and trails. Though MARC's policy is that dogs must be kept on-leash and close at hand (except at the Montour Preserve where dogs are prohibited by Talen Energy policy), MARC's staff finds the rule is often ignored. No policy change is planned at this time, but Stoudt will continue to follow up with new signage and law enforcement involvement in serious cases where warranted.

As discussed during the Assistant Director's report, MARC has experienced repeated, significant storm damages in recent weeks at the Hess Recreation Area, Montour Preserve, and the North Branch Canal Trail. Damage cleanup has been a challenge for MARC's staffing and funding.

Stoudt reported slow progress on securing new funding for MARC's operations. Stoudt remains cautiously optimistic the Montour County Commissioners will be able to allocate new funding for MARC's 2024 operations and hopes to have an update for MARC's October meeting. Stoudt continues to meet with partner organizations to explore opportunities for new programming at the Montour Preserve which might generate new revenue for MARC.

Motion to approve the Director's report: Elizabeth Rake

Second: Commissioner Dan Hartman

Motion passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE MARC 2024 LAWN CARE INVITATION TO BID

Stoudt called attention to the draft MARC 2024 Lawn Care Invitation to Bid document distributed with the meeting agenda. Stoudt noted the services being put out to bid for the 2024 season are identical to those provided this year. Stoudt noted that he, Brehm, and Piatt had updated MARC's estimates to perform the work with MARC labor for comparison to bid results.

Motion to approve advertising the MARC 2024 Lawn Care Invitation to Bid package as presented: Frank Dombroski

Second: Tami Gabrielsen

Motion passed unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Dombroski adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm.

Next meeting: Monday, October 23, 2023, at the Montour Preserve Environmental Education Center and online through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Stoudt
Director / Acting Secretary