

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 09/16/2015

7:00 P.M., Penn Township Municipal Building

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington
Helen Farrington
Eileen Lieberman
Tom Stahl
David Wood
Jay George

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:

Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator

Deborah Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/ Public Relations Specialist

Not Present

Richard Pohner

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome

II. Old Business:

- A. Dave Wood moved to approve the April 15, 2015 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted; Eileen Lieberman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

III. New Business:

- A. Members Tom Stahl and Richard Pohner's terms expire on December 31, 2015 – Tom Stahl accepted another 3-year term; Paul will contact Richard Pohner (not present) to see if Mr. Pohner will accept re-appointment.
- B. Speedwell Forge Park Updates
1. Bradley Property Acquisition:
 - a. After the County obtained a new appraisal of \$1M, the donor offered 50% above this figure; the landowner turned down the offer. Paul reported that the land is only permitted for a single family dwelling. Paul continued that the owner's taxes will likely increase after the County's upcoming property reassessment. At that time, Paul might re-explore the possibility of purchasing this parcel. The next time a letter of intent will be required from the seller. Tom Stahl asked if the Lancaster County Conservancy should instead seek purchase.
 2. Hunting privileges at Speedwell:
 - a. Paul reported that recently the Northwest River Trail at Chickies was permanently closed to hunting.
 - b. At some point in the future, it could be considered to limit hunting at Speedwell to archery only for the safety of park visitors and nearby residents.
 - c. A member reported hearing eight gun shots during the night several days ago; Paul distributed the Ranger Division phone number for reporting such incidents. He added that the Game Commission cannot enforce County Park rules against the use of rifles at Speedwell.
 3. Other Park Updates:
 - a. Speedwell Forge Lake Dam Update
 - i. The County donated a flowage easement to the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Such an easement is required to refill the lake next spring. The County easement was comprised of seven different tracts totaling 2.83 acres valued at \$1,698.

- b. Chief Ranger Position:
 - i. Paul announced that the Department's vacant Chief Ranger position was filled by Ben Arnold, a 4-year County Park Ranger veteran. Ben is an active hunter and conservationist; he will be present at the next council meeting in April 2016.
 - ii. Ben's former Ranger position, now vacant, will be filled to restore the Department to a total of 6 rangers.

IV. Other Business:

- A. Budget Update: As of January 1, 2016, the Parks Department will be operating on a flat \$110,000 budget (not including payroll).
- B. Lancaster County Conservancy Update
 - 1. Tom Stahl handed out maps of the Welsh Mountain Nature Preserve showing the recent acquisitions of the Swift and Seth Tracts.
 - 2. ATV's are no permitted at the Welsh Mountain Preserve.
 - 3. On Tuesday, October 13, the Conservancy will host a grand opening - DCNR, Lancaster County Commissioners and East Earl Township officials will be present – for more information call 717-392-7891.

Tom Stahl motioned for meeting adjournment at 8:00 P.M., while Dave Wood seconded; approved unanimously.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS