

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 09/17/2014

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

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington
Helen Farrington
Eileen Lieberman
Tom Stahl
David Wood

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:
Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator
Deborah Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/ Public Relations Specialist
WCO Gregory Graham, PA Game Commission

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Special Presentation:

- Four Girl Scout Cadettes from local Troop 70262 explained the work they did during a volunteer project at the Speedwell Forge Park Parking Lot in July. The girls had already acquired a group *Bronze Award* from another project, while completion of this project gave the girls a group *Silver Award*. This achievement paves the way for the girls to work toward individual *Gold Awards*. The Cadettes chose Speedwell Forge Park because it is a hiking favorite, and had suffered damage from recent flood events.
 - Supplies and labor were donated by *B.R. Kreider, P.L.Rohrer, Joann Fabrics and Lititz Sign Company*;
 - The parking lot was re-stoned;
 - The kiosk was cleaned and updated with a new backboard and photos; a *Find It* section was added to the back of the kiosk. The contents of this new feature are weatherproof and changeable;
 - Two signs with in-ground posts were installed to remind visitors to *Pack In/Pack Out* and to clean-up after their dogs;
 - The project taught the girls valuable life lessons: the importance of communication and less procrastination;
 - 25 people, including younger scouts and adults, assisted;
 - The project took approximately 40 hours per Scout to complete.
- Council members and guests thanked and applauded the girls for their efforts and accomplishments.

Old Business:

- Dave Wood moved to approve the April 16, 2014 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted while Eileen Lieberman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

New Business:

- Current appointments for members Eileen Lieberman and Dawn Darlington will expire on December 31, 2014 – both agreed to remain on the council for additional three-year terms.
- Bradley Property Acquisition:
 - A PA-DCNR grant application was approved by the County Commissioners and was submitted to the State. The Speedwell Foundation has pledged the 50% grant match. If the grant is awarded, we have three years to complete the acquisition.
 - Paul will communicate with the Speedwell Forge Advisory Council as this process continues and will seek the approval of the Council before any final recommendation is made to the County Commissioners to acquire the property.
 - No parking lot is planned for the new parcel at this time. Visitors would access the parcel from current Speedwell Forge Park trails via an at-grade crossing of Speedwell Forge Road. Parking for the parcel could be provided off of Oak Lane in the future.
 - There would be no hunting on this parcel.

- Cooperative Farm-Game Program:
 - Advisory Council members introduced themselves to attending Pennsylvania Game Commission Officer Greg Graham who patrols northeastern Lancaster County. Officer Graham began as a PGC deputy in 1994, returned to Pennsylvania and has been a WCO for four years.
 - Speedwell Forge County Park is open to shotgun, muzzleloader and archery hunting. All PGC regulations are in effect on County Park property where hunting is permitted. Park rangers enforce hunting. PGC signs will be posted to remind park visitors to wear blaze orange during open hunting seasons.
 - Council members Helen Farrington, Dawn Darlington and Dave Wood, neighbors to Speedwell Forge County Park, all reported hearing gunshots occurring between 6 and 7:00 p.m. daily for about the past month; the shots are believed to be coming from county parkland. Target shooting is NOT permitted in the Park. Officer Graham and park rangers will look into the matter.
 - Officer Graham reported that a privately-owned, nearby deer propagation farm lost an adult buck that is now roaming free. Graham is concerned that the native deer species may be threatened by this buck, i.e., chronic wasting disease, which is spread by urine, feces, and saliva. Suspect deer need to be harvested, and the head and spinal cord examined for presence of the disease. The escaped buck has yellow and white ear tags. A sign about the lost buck will be posted at the park kiosk and anyone harvesting this deer will be directed to contact Officer Graham.
- The County Parks Department will absorb \$5,000 in budget cuts in 2015. Tight fiscal constraints are expected to continue in 2016, but improvement should be evident in 2017 with the County's plan for property re-assessment.
- Speedwell Forge Lake Dam Update:
 - The dredging of sediment from the bottom of the old lake is complete. A search is in place to secure contractors to fix the dam.

Other Business:

- None.

Tom Stahl motioned for meeting adjournment at 8:01 P.M., while Dave Wood seconded; approved unanimously.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS