

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 09/20/2017

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

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington
Helen Farrington
Eileen Lieberman
Steve Mohr, Jr.
Richard Pohner
Boyd Sponaugle, Jr.
David Wood

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:
Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator
Deborah Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/Public Relations Specialist
Alex Manwiller, Park Ranger

PA Game Commission:
Wildlife Conservation Officer Gregory Graham

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome:

II. Old Business:

- A. Richard Pohner moved to approve the April 2017 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted while Dave Wood seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

III. New Business

A. Advisory Council Member Updates

1. Steve Mohr, Jr., was introduced as a new Advisory Council member representing the Lancaster County Conservancy and replacing former member Linda Ferich. Steve is Stewardship Coordinator for the LCC and resides in Conoy Township. The LCC plays a key role and maintains a perpetual 75-acre conservation easement inspected annually within Speedwell Forge County Park.
2. As there was a new member present, Paul Weiss provided an overview of the Park and the Advisory Council:
 - a. Speedwell Forge County Park spans 412 acres in Elizabeth and Penn Townships.
 - b. Hammer Creek flows along the eastern edge of the Park.
 - c. The Park contains 3+ miles of primitive hiking trails and is used for passive recreation (e.g. hiking, bird watching, fishing, etc.).
 - d. The Park includes successional forests, wetlands and several acres of agricultural land.
 - e. The Lancaster County Conservancy holds a perpetual conservation easement on the wetland portion of the Park.
 - f. The Advisory Council was created to provide input on both a Natural Resource Inventory and Historical Resource Inventory of the Park. These projects were completed in 2003.
 - g. The Advisory Council continues to meet twice per year to provide input on operation and management of the Park.

3. Dave Wood is resigning from the SFAC because he has moved from the area. Best wishes to Dave! Dave is recommending appointment of Daniel Schaeffer, the new owner of Dave's previous home adjacent to Speedwell Forge Park. Mr. Schaeffer is a hunter, outdoorsman, and is employed by Tait Towers. Richard Pohner moved to recommend the appointment of Schaeffer to the SFAC. Eileen Lieberman seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously on the motion. Paul will contact Mr. Schaeffer to confirm that he is willing to serve and will prepare an appointment recommendation to the County Commissioners.
4. Advisory Council members Dawn Darlington and Eileen Lieberman, whose current terms expire on 12/31/17, agreed to serve additional 3-year terms ending 12/31/20.

B. Speedwell Forge Park Updates

1. To encourage additional programming in Speedwell Forge County Park, a port-a-pot was placed in the parking lot along Speedwell Forge Road from mid-July through mid-August. During that time campers, participated in the Parks Department's Outdoor Adventure Camp July 19 in Speedwell Forge Park. Also a public program, Happy Trails Hiking, was held in the Park on August 3. As these programs were well-received and as there were no complaints/incidents surrounding the port-a-pot, there was discussion about having a port-a-pot in the Park for a longer time next year. Advisory Council members were supportive of this plan.
2. As a follow-up to the last meeting, the Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered in Speedwell Forge County Park and several ash trees along the Hammer Creek Trail have been removed due to infestation. The Parks Dept. will continue to remove infested/hazard trees along trails, roads and parking areas in Speedwell Forge Park. Infested trees within interior forested areas will be addressed through natural attrition. After a discussion, members learned that milled wood rids the insects from the lumber and the wood can be used for pallets, firewood, etc.

C. Other Park Updates

1. The Parks Department's 2018 Operating Budget appropriation was reduced by 2.5%.

D. Ranger Update

1. Ranger Alex Manwiller was introduced as the ranger liaison for Speedwell Forge County Park. Alex has a degree in Environmental Engineering and worked in various environmental and natural resource management positions prior to taking a Ranger position with the Lancaster County Parks Department about a year ago. Alex will monitor hunting and other activity at Speedwell. Members were asked to report hunting, dumping, and other on-going concerns in the Park to Ranger Manwiller via email amanwiller@co.lancaster.pa.us or by calling 717-278-6274. In the event of an emergency, 911 should be called.
2. This past spring Rangers received reports of a local business dumping brush and other natural debris along in the portion of the Park that borders Oak Lane. Alex addressed the issue with the business who said that they would deal with the employee responsible. No citations were issued at the time and the problem has not re-occurred.

E. Game Commission Update (via WCO Greg Graham)

1. As Speedwell Forge Park is part of the Game Commission's Farm Game Coop (see PA Game Commission/Hunter Access Program for more information), Officer Graham visits Speedwell regularly to check on hunting activity in the Park.

2. While all of the PGC hunting regulations apply to Speedwell Forge Park, Game Commission Officers cannot enforce Park rules that *exceed* PGC rules (e.g. prohibition of rifle hunting in the County Park).
3. Guidelines regarding tree stands were discussed:
 - a. Tree stands must be identified with the name and address of the owner or with an ID number issued by PGC.
 - b. Tree stands can be placed not more than two weeks before and must be removed two weeks after any deer season.
 - c. Tree stands must be constructed and accessed in such a way as not to damage the tree.
4. PGC will be stocking Speedwell Forge Park with pheasant again this year. Pheasant hunters will be required to pay \$25 to the PGC for the newly-created pheasant stamp. Officer Graham will provide Ranger Manwiller with signage that can be posted in the Park regarding this new requirement.

IV. Other Business

- A. Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meetings for 2018 are Wednesdays, April 18 and September 19, 7:00 P.M., at the Penn Township Municipal Building.
- B. Richard Pohner motioned for meeting adjournment at 7:51 P.M. Dave Wood seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS