

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 4/18/2012

7PM, Penn Township Municipal Building

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Eileen Lieberman
Pete Parsil
Jay George
Sally Vanderslice
David Wood
Helen Farrington

Board Members Not Present

Dawn Darlington

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:

Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator

Clyde McMillan-Gamber, Naturalist

Deb Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/Public Relations Specialist

The meeting began at 7:05 P.M.

Old Business:

- Sally Vanderslice moved to approve the September 21, 2011 Advisory Council meeting minutes as submitted. Dave Wood seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved; minutes will be posted on www.lancastercountyparks.org.
- All clean-up and repairs of damage from Tropical Storm Lee in Speedwell Forge County Park have been completed. At the discretion of the Trails Crew, one of the pedestrian bridges was not replaced.
- The enrollment of farmland at Speedwell into the Clean & Green program has netted \$1,300+ savings in local taxes; savings from school district taxes is still pending.

New Business:

- Tony Good sub-division update: Tony Good withdrew the initial subdivision plan for his property and instead requested a variance to put a second residence on his current lot. Using the MPC (Municipal Planning Code), Penn Township Supervisors have challenged the variance approved by the Zoning Board. The case is currently in the court system. Paul thanked the Advisory Committee members for their quick response when the Parks Department was asked to provide comment on the original subdivision plan back in November.
- Speedwell Forge Lake update: While they are committed to restoring the Speedwell Forge Dam, 16 PA dams are on the "at risk" list and the PA Fish & Boat Commission does not have money to repair all of them. No State capital funds have been allocated for dam repair, but some funding may be available via Marcellus Shale drilling fees. Paul provided a hand-out detailing the breakdown of Marcellus Shale fee revenue. In the meantime, the local, grass-roots organization SaveSpeedwell is coordinating fund raising efforts to restore the dam. More information can be found at their website: www.savespeedwellforge.org
- Based on numerous factors including a desire not to raise taxes and a desire to discontinue using reserve funds to balance the budget, it is anticipated that the 2013 County budget process will be very challenging.

- The recently-released Economic Impact Study of the 25-mile Conewago/Lebanon Valley Rail Trail by the National Rails-to-Trails Conservancy found that the trail resulted in a total economic impact in 2011 of \$1,326,117 (including \$875,320 directly into the local economy). Paul distributed copies of the report to all Committee members.
- Sally Gregory asked about efforts to preserve Keystone Funding in the State budget. Paul indicated that the Parks Department's liaison commissioner, Craig Lehman, sent a letter of support for the continuation of this key funding program for parks, recreation and open space.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS