

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting of April 16, 2008

7PM, Penn Township Municipal Building

Board Members Present:

Eileen Lieberman
Pete Parsil
Sally Vanderslice
David Wood

Board Members Not Present:

Helen Farrington
Robert Gabriel
Jay George

Others Present:

Ranger Chad Shaneyfelt

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation: Jim Hackett, Executive Director and Officiator, and Deb Werner CPS, Senior Secretary/Public Relations Specialist.

- The meeting began at 7:10PM. A quorum of four members was present.

Old Business

- A motion was made by Sally Vanderslice to approve the minutes of 11/28/07; Pete Parsil seconded.

New Business

- Park Maintenance Department met with Lancaster Conservancy to inspect the easement at Speedwell Forge County Park. A walkway bridge has been placed over the wetland area.
- The Trails' Crew, led by Cornelius Muller, conduct periodic trail clean up.
- The next *Getting to Know Your County Park Tour* will be held at Speedwell Forge County Park on Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The rain date will be Saturday, May 17, same time. Pre-registration is required by calling the Main Office at 299-8215, where Erica and Amarilis can take your reservation. Council members planning to attend should park at the PFBC pavilion parking lot off Lake View Drive. Operating the Department van, Ranger Shaneyfelt can meet participants there and transport them to the County Park parking lot. This will free up parking spaces for others who may attend.
- Another *Getting to Know Your County Park Tour* featuring Conewago Recreation Trail is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m., June 1, National Trails Day. A major event is planned and includes free snacks and prizes.
- Grant monies have been awarded so that Lancaster Junction Trail can be resurfaced in 2009.
- Property issues are being resolved so that a 1.5-mile section can be added to the Money Rocks County Park trail.
- Conestoga Greenway easements are being secured for the trail design bids to be received.
- Park Ranger Chad Shaneyfelt, a Penn State graduate in Park & Recreation Management, has been assigned to patrol Speedwell. He gave this report: Speedwell Forge County Park is 415 acres and lies within Elizabeth and Penn Twp. He visits Speedwell 3-4 times weekly to keep park visitors safe. He investigates damage to signs and to the kiosk, assists with trail maintenance and reports if trail grooming is required, and informs park neighbors about the Park Watch Program. Speedwell is a quiet park. The distance of Oak and Hammer Creek Trails is 2.8 miles. Patrol times by vehicle are staggered to prevent predicting a routine. When necessary, hunting signs are reposted and litter is

removed. Maintenance, Rangers and other authorities network to sustain efficiency. Shaneyfelt checks tree canopies and reports tree damage to Maintenance; Chad has a history in Wildlife Management and Forestry. He checks hunters for valid licenses, and frowns on damage from tree stands. He has written citations for illegal nailing of tree stands to trees and has written a citation after someone was observed carving initials into a tree. ATV's and snowmobile operators receive one warning; a citation is written after that time. During fishing season, Shaneyfelt checks licenses. Litter, bait containers and discarded fishing line are removed to keep the parkland in pristine condition. The Park upholds a *carry in, carry out* trash policy. Because of a report from a Park Watch participant, partying kids were observed above Hammer Creek and left litter and evidence of a campfire. In turn, the Department installed a bollard to deter this activity. In answer to member questions, Ranger Shaneyfelt reported that Speedwell's deer population could be 30-40. He spoke of a possible survey with the PGC to determine a safe number of hunters. Ideally, hunters would be required to register to monitor activity and so that the deer herd could be managed. In Pennsylvania, successful deer hunters are required to fill out a tag soon after the kill. The tag should be attached to the animal's ear and provides animal sex (doe, buck), number of points, township taken, date, time, and the location of the Wildlife Management Area. Shaneyfelt provided members with the Ranger Station number, 295-3605, if questions should arise.

- Jim added that a new sign made of plastic lumber would be placed at Hammer Creek. He also reported that Maintenance is keeping an eye on erosion on the Hammer Creek Trail.
- Jim announced that a Department update would air May 4 on The Rose AM Station at 7:30 a.m. It will air the same date at 8 a.m. on The Rose FM Station. An update will be taped next week with Blue Ridge Channel 11, but an airdate has not been determined.
- An additional fulltime Park Ranger will be requested for the 2009 budget.
- A Park Design Specialist has been hired as of January 27, 2008. Ali Abdul-Hakeem is currently working with County Engineers on a Lancaster Junction Trail project.
- Deb added that a Full Moon Twilight Hike is planned at Speedwell Forge County Park for Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 – 9 p.m. The program is led by Naturalist Karen Wiker; pre-registration is required.
- Members received an updated Advisory Council Roster.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 7 p.m., in the Penn Township Municipal Building.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah H. Werner CPS