

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting of November 28, 2007

7PM, Penn Township Municipal Building

Board Members Present:

Helen Farrington
Jay George
Eileen Lieberman
Sally Vanderslice

Board Members Not Present:

Robert Gabriel
Pete Parsil
J. Scott Shank

Others Present:

Dave Wood, Penn Twp. Supervisor

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

- The meeting began at 7:05PM. A quorum of four members was present.

Old Business

- A motion to approve the minutes of 9/20/06 was made by Jay George; Sally Vanderslice seconded.
- A motion to approve the minutes of 4/18/07 was made by Jay George; Sally Vanderslice seconded.

New Business

- Jim stated that if adjacent land became available for sale, the County of Lancaster may consider purchasing it for buffer purposes.
- Speedwell's kiosk has been moved to the trail entrance by the parking lot.
- Speedwell park sign will be moved so that it can be seen from both directions; new signs will be patterned from Conewago Recreation Trail-style signs.
- Council members will be invited to a Speedwell spring park tour (date to be announced).
- Jim reported that the Department is close to hiring a Park Design Specialist.
- Chief Ranger Lore Verne was present to discuss park ranger patrols at Speedwell. Verne has been Department Park Ranger for ten years and has worked as a ranger for twenty years. His current staff is comprised of four and five-year veteran Lancaster County Park Rangers. All rangers have completed four years at Slippery Rock College or have National Park Service training. The firearms training is the same training that a police officer would receive, although park rangers are not municipal police officers. Rangers use enforcement as a park management tool, starting with education, verbal warning, written warning, and then citation. This year each of the eight park rangers have been given a specific park to patrol at least two days each week. As all Park Rangers are instructed, Speedwell's Ranger Shaneyfelt contacts park neighbors to inform them of the Park Watch program and prepares incident reports when necessary. Ordinance 10 governs all County Parks; a re-write of this ordinance is pending. All County Parks close at dusk. Tire dumping and vandalism are two ongoing problems at Speedwell. State Police and Township police can enforce laws on County Parkland. Elizabeth Township should refer people to County Park Rangers if questions should arise from the public about Speedwell. Are hunters allowed to use rifles at Speedwell? No, that is against County regulations. An advisory council member suggested that the Chief Ranger or Park Rangers attend Hunter Education classes to at least provide/distribute copies of Ordinance 10 to interested parties. Park Rangers have the authority to site for hunting violations; the case is then turned over to the PGC.
- David Wood will be appointed as a member of the Advisory Council; Helen Farrington and Jay George have accepted re-appointment by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.
- Jay George wanted confirmation that if the County purchased land next to Speedwell that it not be resold for development. Sally Vanderslice suggested the County consider working with the Lancaster County Conservancy or Farmland Trust if a land purchase was considered.

- Jim gave these updates: The Lancaster County Conservancy is working with the New Holland Water Authority to purchase 800 acres adjacent to Money Rocks County Park. If the acquisition occurs, a possible sharing of services land management agreement may be developed between the County and Conservancy. The County and the Conservancy worked together to obtain DCNR funding for Conestoga Greenway; the Conservancy is the Project Manager for the 1.5-mile trail which will be the County's ninth park and its third linear park; Lancaster Junction Trail is scheduled for renovations in 2008.
- Council meeting dates were selected for 2008: Wednesday, April 16, and Wednesday, September 17 – both will be held at 7 p.m. in the Penn Township Municipal Building.

A motion was made by Sally Vanderslice to adjourn; Jay George seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah H. Werner CPS