

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting of April 18, 2007

7PM, Speedwell Forge Bed & Breakfast

Board Members Present:

Helen Farrington
Eileen Lieberman
Peter Parsil
Sally Vanderslice

Board Members Not Present:

Robert Gabriel
Jay George
J. Scott Shank

Others Present:

Gail Burkholder, PFBC SE Region Secretary
Dawn Darlington, Elizabeth Twp. Resident
Dave Wood, Penn Twp. Supervisor

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

- The meeting began at 7:00PM. A quorum of four members was present.

Old Business

- There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

- Jim requested that members be present at least two meetings per year.
- To protect the Conservancy easement, Park Maintenance erected a boardwalk in the fall of 2006. Eliminating foot traffic in the wet areas appears to be working. Maintenance is also trying to deal with drainage issues.
- Maintenance replaced older signs with plastic signs that will last longer.
- Repairs to the bridge planks have been done.
- Downed trees and limbs have been cleared due to storm damage.
- Scouts along with Environmental Education staff have been cleaning out and maintaining birdhouses.
- Each park ranger has been assigned a County Park and has been directed to visit their respective park eight times per month. Jim will email the identity of the ranger that covers Speedwell Forge to all members.
- Volunteers can sign up for the Park Watch Program. A brochure explaining the program will be emailed to members. Jim sends yearly thank you letters to people who help in this volunteer capacity.
- Jim would like to schedule a park tour within the next six months. Members may advise Deb via email of a suitable time and date.
- Equestrian traffic is prohibited at Speedwell Forge County Park thereby eliminating erosion; signs have been erected to that effect.
- All Advisory Council Members will be included on the mailing list to receive future issues of *Wanderings*, the Park's Department newsletter, as well as monthly program reminders via email.
- Gail Burkholder, Secretary of the PA Fish & Boat Commission's SE Region Office, reported that customers come into her nearby office seeking information about Speedwell's trails and hunting regulations. She also reported that recent problems on Fish & Boat Commission property have included ongoing vandalism such as starting fires, tearing down of signs and vehicle tires ripping grassy areas.
- Clyde spoke about wildlife sightings and the different species of ducks and geese that roam the parkland.
- Dawn Darlington reported that the present Bed & Breakfast was vacant since 1986 and has been open for business since August 2006. There are five rooms available with an occupancy rate of 40% or more. (After the meeting, members were taken on a tour of the facility.)
- Jim reported that Speedwell Forge County Park continues to be maintained as a passive park.
- Other Department projects include the Central/Buchmiller Master Plan, renovations to the Conewago Trail, and the NW River Trail.
- A Park Design Specialist has not yet been hired.

- The Department continues to receive support from the County Commissioners.
- The next Council Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Penn Township Municipal Building, Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah H. Werner CPS