

**LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2019**

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

**APPROVED**

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington  
Helen Farrington  
Eileen Lieberman  
Steve Mohr, Jr.  
Richard Pohner  
Daniel Schaeffer

Others Present

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

PA Game Commission:

Wildlife Conservation Officer Gregory Graham

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The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome

II. Old Business

- A. Richard Pohner moved to approve the September 19, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted while Eileen Lieberman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted online at [www.lancastercountyparks.org](http://www.lancastercountyparks.org).

III. New Business

A. Advisory Council Member Updates

1. Richard Pohner and Steve Mohr, whose terms expired on December 31, 2018 were re-appointed through December 31, 2021.

B. Speedwell Forge Park Updates

1. 2019 Summer Environmental Education Programming at Speedwell Forge Park

- a. June 20 – Ultimate Scientist day campers will spend the day exploring nature at Speedwell Forge Park exploring nature.
- b. June 21 - “Longest Day Hike” (Public Program) 6:00 – 7:30, \$3.00

2. Hunting update

- a. A Father and son were found hunting with rifles in the Park. However, the local Magistrate dismissed the case due to inadequate signage. Perhaps more signs should be placed along the southern boundary of the Myers farm field and along their farm lane. Paul noted that signs rarely serve as deterrents largely serve to support enforcement/citations.
- b. Boundaries are posted at Speedwell.

- c. Park rules and regulations are posted at kiosk by parking lot.
3. In September or October, Ride Float Run, a non-profit group, is proposing a Biyakathon at Speedwell Forge Lake – kayaking on the water and running on the roads and Oak Trail in SF County Park. The Loop Trail will not be used. Physical impact to the park trails will be minimal. The group is very organized and submitted a thorough application including traffic control. There is no event parking proposed in the Park (the Park cannot accommodate it). A fee will be charged for participation with one-half of the proceeds going to the Warwick Education Foundation. The Advisory Council offered support of staff recommendation to approve the event.
  4. Park Rangers removed an old riding mower and trash can that have been dumped in an open area along the western border of the Park. Thank you to Dan Schaeffer for notifying staff about this problem.
  5. The boardwalk portion of the Loop Trail through the wetlands at Speedwell Forge Park was lost during the extensive flooding in the fall of 2018. (This feature is within the area of the Park that was donated to the County by the Lancaster County Conservancy and upon which the Conservancy still holds a conservation easement.) Steve Mohr, who represents the Conservancy on the Advisory Council, expressed support for the plan of the Parks Dept. to remove the boardwalk if conditions allow and not to re-build it. With changing weather trends that we have experienced in the last several years (as confirmed by Helen Farrington whose property abuts Hammer Creek on the east side of the Park) a new boardwalk would require more extensive infrastructure, the construction of which which would cause extensive environmental damage to the wetlands. Steve also concurred with Park staff that the trail could continue to be used “as-is” but should be monitored to see if damage is being done to the wetlands. The Advisory Council concurred with these plans as well.
  6. Paul provided an update on the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) as we expect to see a dramatic increase in their population in Lancaster County this summer.
    - a. The Spotted Lanternfly lays egg masses in the fall that hatch-out in the spring. Searching for and destroying these masses is one of the easiest and most efficient means of reducing the SLF population.
    - b. In mid-summer, the SLF insects (vaguely resembling ladybugs) morph into their adult, moth-like stage. SLF are treehoppers and do not fly. They move most quickly when they are unknowingly transported on trucks, cars, campers, trains, etc.
    - c. While they will feed on many species of trees, SLF are drawn to Ailanthus trees (“Tree of Heaven”).
    - d. SLF has been spotted in all four corners of Lancaster County, and the County is now within the SLF quarantine zone established by the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Businesses operating within the quarantine zone are required to follow certain guidelines to prevent spreading SLF. Residents within the quarantine zone are also encouraged to take measures to prevent the spread of SLF.
    - e. In February, the County of Lancaster signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowing the USDA to treat Ailanthus trees on various County properties (including County Parks) to reduce the SLP population. Several other public and private entities are considering similar agreements with the USDA.
    - f. At this time, the extent SLF infestation in Speedwell Forge County Park is unknown. We will have a better idea when the eggs hatch and the SLF enter their adult stage
    - g. Anyone seeking more information can visit the homepage of the County Park website ([www.lancastercountyparks.org](http://www.lancastercountyparks.org)) where there are links to extensive information provided by the PA Dept. of Ag, the USDA and the Penn State Extension.

The meeting adjourned 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS