

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2020**

The January 10, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Mauch Chunk Lake Park Office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present – Thomas Wildoner, Chairman; Darryl Brewster, Secretary; Earl Henninger, Member.

Park Staff Present – David Horvath, Park Director; Melissa Miller, Parks Aide.

Commissioner Chris L. Lukasevich was also in attendance.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mr. Wildoner called the meeting to order and led the group in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

HEARING OF VISITORS – There were no visitors for the January meeting.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Brewster to approve the minutes of the November 08, 2019 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Mr. Horvath reported that all meeting minutes will now be downloaded to the County website within 48 hours following approval.

VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS – Motion made by Mr. Henninger to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of November totaling \$30,616.32 and the month of December totaling \$41,817.25, seconded by Mr. Brewster. All board members were in favor.

PARK OPERATIONS –

2019 Dam Inspection Report – Mr. Horvath shared the 2019 Dam Inspection Report with the board members. Mr. Horvath reported that Jerry Woome, P.E. Senior Engineer with the PA Fish & Boat Commission inspected the dam on May 22, 2019. Mr. Horvath noted that the inspection report was finalized on November 12, 2019. Mr. Horvath stated that the inspection report is submitted annually to the PA Department of Environmental Protection Division of Dam Safety. Mr. Horvath reported that vegetation conditions on the crest and embankment will be monitored and repaired if necessary. Mr. Horvath reported that some grading may need to be done on the downstream side in order to improve conditions for maintenance. Mr. Horvath reported that the inspection report notes that a conduit inspection of the sluice gate will be scheduled during the spring of 2020 due to lower pool levels observed during previous inspections. Mr. Horvath presented the dam inspection report for board member review.

Boating Facility Grant Program – Mr. Horvath reported that the Boating Facility Grant Program through the PA Fish & Boat Commission is once again available. Mr. Horvath noted that funding was secured through this program once before which led to improvements to the

restrooms at Boat Launch A. Mr. Horvath reported that a call for projects was announced on November 04, 2019. Mr. Horvath stated that applications, however, were due December 31, 2019.

Mr. Horvath stated that he reached out to Scott Bollinger, Program Coordinator and was informed that he is expecting that funding will be made available again next year.

Mr. Horvath reported that he would like to apply to the program for funding to improve the parking lot and restroom at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath noted that grant applications for construction projects would require construction drawings and a detailed cost estimate provided by a Certified Professional Engineer.

Commissioner Lukasevich stated that he would discuss the grant application and potential funding source with the Commissioners to determine if the County would be interested in applying.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that Shoreline Trail improvements have been moving along. Mr. Horvath reported that several sections of walkway and footbridges have been replaced and wood chips added to the trail.

Mr. Horvath reported that the new metal serving windows for the Ginder-Vermillion pavilion have arrived. Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff will begin framing for the installation.

Mr. Horvath reported that trees have been marked for removal in the main park area and at Boat Launch A. Mr. Horvath reported that the trees are primarily white ash that have succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Horvath reported that there is a total of around 30 to 40 trees.

Mr. Horvath reported that another section of the Switchback Trail has been improved between Stoney Lonesome Road in Summit Hill and the main park entrance along Lentz Trail. Mr. Horvath stated that repairs included grading and re-shaping the trail to improve drainage conditions.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that the County will be advertising for lifeguards for the upcoming season. Mr. Horvath stated that he requested that the advertisement run continuously from January 18th through April 30th. Mr. Horvath reported that the positions will also be placed on the County website, Careerlink, and Indeed.

Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the County recently increased the starting hourly rate for lifeguards from \$10.00/hour to \$11.00/hour.

Commissioner Lukasevich stated that he would like to explore the possibility of reimbursing lifeguards for their training expenses. Commissioner Lukasevich stated that the reimbursement could potentially be in the way of a summer bonus and could lead to enticing more lifeguards.

Mr. Horvath reported that there is also the need to fill several Park Ranger I and II positions.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – There were no Special Activity Requests submitted for the month of January.

Mr. Horvath reported that the Polar Plunge to benefit Marian High School will be held on Saturday, January 25th.

CORRESPONDENCE – Letter received from S.S. Palmer P.T.O. of Palmerton requesting a donation for their annual basket social and bake sale. Motion made by Mr. Brewster to donate a 2-night mid-week cabin stay, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Prior to adjournment Mr. Henninger suggested that a life ring be placed at both Boat Launches during the winter time for ice fisherman to access in the event of an emergency. The board held a brief discussion and Mr. Horvath stated that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Henninger reported that he is concerned with the amount of salt used in the watershed area for road treatment and how it may affect the water quality of the lake. Mr. Henninger suggested that a letter be sent to Summit Hill Borough. Commissioner Lukasevich questioned whether water samples should be taken first to determine if there is a problem. Mr. Horvath felt that a study would need to be completed to determine if there is any impact on the water quality.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 12:00 p.m. by Mr. Brewster to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Darryl Brewster, Secretary