

MINUTES

Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission Meeting

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023 – Weissport Borough Hall

Present: Dennis (Denny) Bauchspies, Chairman/Franklin Township; Arland Moyer, Sr. and Joe Foster, Weissport Borough; Ryan Saunders, Lehighon Borough; Jack Sterling, Jim Thorpe Borough. **Absent:** No representatives for Mahoning Township, Parryville Borough or East Penn Township. **Guests:** Liz Rosencrans, (via phone), D&LNHC; Rod Mann, Dennis DeMara and Kathy Ruff, Volunteers.

Denny Bauchspies called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

MOTION made by Arlan Moyer, seconded by Ryan Saunders and **APPROVED** to accept the minutes of the Sept. 28, 2023 meeting.

MOTION made by Ryan Saunders, seconded by Arlan Moyer and **APPROVED** to accept the September treasurer's report.

Special:

The group discussed the agenda and goals for the Oct. 30 town-hall meetings (3:30 and 5:30) at the Lehighon Outdoor Center. Ideas included educating the public on the work the commission does on a shoe-string budget, the need for additional funding and volunteers as well as the need for a paid part-time coordinator to oversee the administrative and other operations as volunteers are retiring and maintenance and equipment costs continue to grow. Dennis DeMara discussed the need for an estimated \$25K for supplies, a part-time coordinator, etc. Rod Mann volunteered to help pay bills upon Denny Bauchspies' resignation at the end of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants:

Weissport Canal Overflows Project

- A. Liz Rosencrans advised we're still awaiting the Army Corps of Engineers' recommendation to DEP for approval of the permit package.
- B. An interest-bearing checking account at the JTNB has been opened. After discussion, a **MOTION** made by Ryan Saunders, seconded by Arlan Moyer and **APPROVED** authorized Kathy Ruff to draw down half 50% of the DCNR grant of \$194,500 to deposit into the account and begin paying costs.
- C. After discussion, Kathy Ruff was authorized to contact Tom Nanovic, Esquire, solicitor for Franklin Township, to get update on Certificate of Title signature required by the grant.

Trail Tenders/Activities: 2024 clean-up dates will be set at the February meeting.

Fundraising & Events: See SPECIAL above.

Public Relations/Misc.: Jen Mann is working on finalizing a rack card.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Kathy Ruff advised Claire Sadler gave a draft letter to be sent to all the donors of the Lock 2 Weigh Station rehab project started by Elissa Garofalo to Sharon Alexander to explain the stages of the project and funding requirements.
- B. Despite repeated calls, no response was received by the PA Historical and Museum Commission on putting a marker at the trailhead. The commission will await further action by the PAHMC.

NEW BUSINESS

None discussed

MOTION by Ryan Saunders, second by Denny Bauchspies and **APPROVED** conclusion of the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 30, 2023 @ Weissport Borough Hall.