

Ashtabula County Metroparks
91 N. Chestnut Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047

February 10, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners was held via video conferencing and called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Holly Mayernick, Board President. Board members attending and completing a quorum were Marie Lane, Vice President, Paul Carpenter, Charlie Kohli and Joe Tredent. Staff in attendance: Antoinette Green, Larry Frimerman, Brett Bellas, Board Clerk Laura Beattie, and Ranger Eric Dietrich.

Guests in attendance: Sherry Bailey, Robert Juris, and J.P. Ducro

Mayernick officially welcomed new Board Clerk Laura Beattie.

Beattie conducted roll call of board members; all board members were present and responded "aye".

Review and Approve:

Kohli asked that the meeting minutes be amended to reflect that the Pymatuning Greenway Trail survey was a topographical survey, not a boundary survey. Kohli then moved to approve the minutes with this amendment; Tredent seconded. All in favor.

Kohli moved to accept the January Payments (ledger); Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

Audience Participation:

Sherry Bailey stated she received an email from the volunteer lead at the nature center, and she forwarded to Green. She inquired as to why the meeting minutes for November, December, and January were not yet on the website. She next requested more detailed agendas, with less abbreviations. She further inquired as whether the recorded zoom meetings are accessible online for viewing. Finally, she requested that some mechanism be put in place for the use of the snowshoes; perhaps they could like be signed out by patrons at the board office.

President's Report:

Mayernick reported that Hamper was vacating his position as Board Counsel and that Lane was taking the lead in acquiring the services of new legal counsel. Lane reported that she had sent an email message through the Bar Association and has received some promising responses.

Mayernick reported there will be a zoom meeting in March with the Harpserfield Township Trustees , et. al, to discuss the trail located at the Spire.

Mayernick thanked Green, Kohli and Carpenter for attending the forfeited land auction.

Mayernick reported that she wishes to call a special board meeting to discuss the board's responses to the parks' priority list. A date will be selected at the end of this meeting.

Finally, Mayernick reported that vendors are inquiring as to the use of the parks for events for their profit. For example, wedding planners or classes at the proposed labyrinth. This will be discussed at the special meeting.

Old Business: Kohli inquired about the status of the bridge removals at Red Brook. Bellas reported that the bridges had previously been surveyed for their continued viability. Two bridges are being removed, and one remaining in order to maintain access to Carpenter Road.

New Business:

Kohli reported that he has learned of a program interested in forming a partnership between Ashtabula City schools and the Metroparks to assist children in learning how to ride bicycles. Kohli just wanted to bring this to the Board's attention. Frimerman reported that there is also another opportunity to receive bicycle helmets for distribution through the American Association of Pediatrics.

Staff Reports:

Green reported that Friends of Conneaut Creek application was submitted. Notice of decision has not yet been received.

Green next reported that she is receiving a lot of inquires as to snowmobile use of the Greenway Trail. She refers them to the snowmobile club Facebook page for updates. Currently the trail is not open to snowmobiles due to insufficient snow.

Green further reported that Lake County Metroparks reached out about the annual kayak event. It is tentatively scheduled for April 24th; Covid and weather dependent. They will follow up with a proposal to submit to both the Ashtabula and Lake County health departments.

Finally, Green reported that Bellas is cleaning out the pool house. Engineer Phillip Schmidt inspected the pro shop. Engineer will also inspect the pool house once it has been completely cleared. Engineer's report will be discussed at the special meeting.

Action Required:

Tredent moved to accept C. Crump's bid for \$250,065.00 to complete the Red Brook lower stream restoration project; Carpenter seconded. Roll Call, all "aye".

Lane moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-03 authorizing the application of the Paddling Enhancement Grant to improve boat access at the Upper Grand. Frimerman reported that the grant maximum is \$75,000 with no cash match. Carpenter seconded the motion. Roll call; all "aye"

Kohli moved to approve Resolution # 2021-02 for application of the COTF grant for the Pymatuning Valley Trail phase 1.2; Lane seconded. Roll call, all "Aye"

Tredent moved to accept the Ohio Plan Insurance Quote; Carpenter seconded. Roll call; all aye.

Carpenter moved to proceed with the investigation and execution of the Redbrook Wetland Restoration Project, southside of Carpenter Road; Tredent seconded. Roll call; all aye

Tredent moved at 5:22 p.m. to adjourn the regular meeting and proceed to executive session to discuss property and personnel issues; Carpenter seconded. All in favor. Executive session commenced via video conferencing at 5:22 p.m. Legal Counsel Mike Hamper was invited to attend. At 5:55 p.m., Antoinette Green was invited to attend the meeting as well. Hamper left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Regular session, via video conferencing, was reconvened at 6:53 p.m, with Mayernick, Lane, and Carpenter in attendance.

Carpenter moved to recognize Laura Beattie's 17 ½ years of service time; Lane seconded. Roll call; Carpenter "aye", Lane "aye", and Mayernick "aye".

Special board meeting scheduled for February 24, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Lane moved to adjourn the meeting; Carpenter seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next regular meeting scheduled for March 10, 2021.


Holly S. Mayernick, ACMP President


Laure Beattie, Board Clerk