

**LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2018**  
**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  
Benjamin Arnold, Chief Park Ranger

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The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome

II. Old Business

- A. Steve Mohr moved to approve the April 18, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted while Dawn Darlington 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's terms will expire 12/31/2018; both agreed to serve additional 3-year terms ending 12/31/2021. Paul will advise the Board of Commissioners accordingly.
2. Dates for 2019 SFAC Meetings are slated for 7:00 PM on 4/17/19 and 9/18/19 at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

B. Speedwell Forge County Park Updates

1. A summer camp program for youth was held in Speedwell Forge Park in July where participants explored woodland, stream and field habitats.
2. On November 3 from 2:00-3:00 PM, a Park Naturalist will host a Speedwell Hike on park trails; cost is \$2.00 per person and online pre-registration and payment is required when you call 717-295-2055, or visit [https://apm.activecommunities.com/lancastercountyparks/Activity\\_Search/speedwell-forge-hike/279](https://apm.activecommunities.com/lancastercountyparks/Activity_Search/speedwell-forge-hike/279).
3. It was recommended that at some future time a tour of the Park be arranged for the Advisory Council.
4. Chief Arnold distributed "Hunting Guide, a Comprehensive View", published by the Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation. This guide provides information on huntable County Park Land including: Chickies Rock (archery only), Money Rocks and Speedwell Forge County Parks. Hunters must follow PA Game Commission Code and County Park Rules and Regulations including:
  - a. No night hunting, no trapping, no rifles at any time – shot gun or muzzleloaders are permitted.
  - b. Fluorescent orange and hunting stand requirements must be adhered to.
  - c. Rangers will post orange requirement for deer season after Thanksgiving.
  - d. Archery hunters must meet orange requirements during overlapping firearms seasons.
  - e. Dove and goose are now in-season.
  - f. This year, only junior hunters ages 12-16 years may shoot pheasants October 6 through 13th.
  - g. Duty ranger phone is 717-278-6274 if members need to report an incident.

- h. Small game season begins October 6 through December.
- i. New this year is a fall 3-day turkey season October 30 – November 1.
- j. PA Game Commission cannot cite for rifle use at Speedwell.
- k. The County Park System now has a full staff of rangers and will dedicate more time to Speedwell enforcements particularly during popular hunting seasons.

*Flood Damage from Florence at Speedwell*

- a. One of the footbridges along the Loop Trail was lost ending up in a tree; it will be replaced in a few weeks. The other two footbridges were not damaged.
- b. The boardwalk along the Loop Trail that was built in the mid-2000's was destroyed. The Loop Trail will be accessible to staff after farmer takes down his crops at which point the damaged materials can be removed.
- c. West Nile virus coalition has been spraying Pyrethrin for mosquitos each week.

*Other Park Flood Updates and News*

- a. Flood damage is being cleared at Chickies and Lancaster Junction Trails.
- b. Northwest Lancaster County River Trail:
  - i. The new pedestrian bridge over Chickies Creek did not receive damage during Florence.
  - ii. Florence did cause a landslide on the trail that needed to be cleared.
  - iii. The Marietta section of the trail is nearly finished.
  - iv. The Trail is accessible on foot from Bainbridge to Falmouth; final construction is expected to be complete within the next year.
  - v. Five municipalities own the 14-mile trail.

C. Other Business

1. As part of the County's on-going efforts to maintain a structurally balanced budget while not increasing taxes, the Park Dept. received a flat budget appropriation for 2019.
2. Spotted Lanternfly:
  - a. The Spotted Lanternfly has been found in all "four corners" of the County.
  - b. Females are currently in the egg-laying process. These eggs will hatch-out in the spring at which time we will have a clearer picture of the impact of SLF on the County for 2019.
  - c. It is advised that people visiting a quarantined area inspect their tires, undercarriage and bumpers before leaving the area so as not to spread the insects.
  - d. The honey dew excreted by SLF adversely impacts fruit growers and creates quality of life issues for residents. SLF also inhibits the ability to export hardwood and other natural resources from quarantined areas.
  - e. Starting next spring, Ailanthus trees in Central Park will be cut down and/or treated to contain the spread of SLF. Sticky bands are applied to tree trunks can also be used to combat SLF although this method will not be used on Park land as the bands can also "catch" small birds and rodents.
3. The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 7:00 P.M., at the Penn Township Municipal Building.
4. Richard Pohner motioned for meeting adjournment at 7:56 P.M. Dawn Darlington seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS