



Neshannock approves boat launch

By Staff

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NEW CASTLE — The Neshannock Township supervisors yesterday approved a Millennium Park subdivision to create a boat launch on the Shenango River.

The 2.42 acres off King's Chapel Road, is being donated by the property owners — Lawrence County Economic Development Corp. — to Lawrence County.

Township resident and avid kayaker Bill Hoffman of King's Chapel Road commended the supervisors. Their action, he said, will make the river more accessible and will draw kayakers, canoers and owners of small boats.

He asked that elected officials develop a long-term plan that includes more public access points to the river. Any plan, he suggested, also should include hiking, biking and ski trails.

Hoffman said the Shenango is an "intimate" river, unlike the Allegheny, which he also navigates.

"If you see something interesting on the shore (of the Shenango) in four strokes you're there."

Amy McKinney, Lawrence County's planning director, said that in 2008, county officials agreed to provide additional access points to the river.

Along with recreational uses, the Millennium Boat Launch will assist the fire department in river rescues, she said.

Supervisor John DiCola, who is also the chief of the Neshannock Township Volunteer Fire Department, applauded the move.

In the past, he said, rescue crews entered the river in Pulaski, which also has no official boat launch.

McKinney said launches are being planned for the Shenango and Beaver rivers at Rock Point and the Bevington Boat Launch on River Road, Taylor Township, which has been completed.

Officials and the Lawrence Conservation District are working to create a boat ramp at the Nashua Bridge in Pulaski Township. McKinney said this includes a gravel parking area and

meets requirements of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

In recommending additional river access sites be developed, Hoffman suggested one be placed on the Shenango River behind the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce building.

Funding for the sites and trail development is available from the Pennsylvania departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.