

## Eastern Monroe Regional Park Commission

November 16, 2009

The regular meeting of EMRPC was held November 16, 2009 at 7:35 pm in the Smithfield Township municipal building with the following members present: representing Smithfield Township were Kevin Casebolt, Rich Cullin, Leslie Underhill and Vince Della Fera, Smithfield Supervisor. Representing Middle Smithfield Township were John Ferro, Mitchell Marcus and Judy Summers.

Kevin moved to approve the agenda and Leslie seconded. Motion carried. Kevin moved to approve the October 19, 2009 minutes and Leslie seconded. Motion carried.

Mary Ellen Higgins, a member of the Smithfield Township Official Map Committee and Scott Dietrich presented information on open space and gathering parcels designated for open space. A map was reviewed. Lengthy discussion followed with many questions. Scott stated that establishing trails connecting our townships could benefit residents in many ways. Tourism will grow, safe walking routes to schools, etc. will benefit all residents. Also, everyone's health status would be improved. Smithfield Township has already approved this direction. Mary Ellen asked EMRPC to promote this plan in Middle Smithfield Township, Price Township and Delaware Water Gap Borough. Our commission is unanimously endorsing and supporting the Smithfield Township Official Map Committee. Portland, Oregon has had their trail system in place for approximately 30 years and it is very well done. On April 9, 2010 at ESU a meeting will be conducted to discuss a county wide plan to increase trails and green spaces. Vince stated that many times open space lands can pay for themselves in as little as 2-5 years. Mitchell moved to recommend that our Boards of Supervisors support the "Official Map" and Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Vince reported that the benches at Rivers Edge will be stored in the old Smithfield municipal building. \$450 will be needed to purchase and install the Doyle Nelson display board. Vince has not gotten a copy of the well testing done at Rivers Edge. He is fairly sure that there are some issues with the results.

John reported that the Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors are in agreement with the October recommendations; however they wanted a footnote added to the budget stating what amount each township will contribute to the total EMRPC budget. John asked the members to again review our proposed 2010 budget. After much discussion, \$7500 was eliminated from the budget. The total proposed budget was \$24,500; each township will contribute \$12,250 to cover 2010 expenses.

Rich mentioned that there is a small trickle at the bottom of Mt. Nebo dam. Discussion followed. Rich felt that it might be a good idea to contact Doug Olmstead and report this incident to him. The dam stabilization line item was reduced to \$3000. Vince and others felt that the supervisors should have the responsibility of dam management, etc. John stated that the Mt. Nebo Dam Committee would become the Mt. Nebo Committee.

Leslie reported that she had called Pat Coyle. Leslie felt that Pat might consider the Rivers Edge location for a possible dog park. Discussion followed. Several members felt that we need to be concerned about who should be members and what exactly EMRPC's interface should be with the Dog Park Committee. No ATV report.

John reported that he had been in contact with the Scout groups and they will be contacting us with potential Eagle Scout projects such as clearing trails, etc.

Mitchell moved to change our next meeting date to January 18, 2010 and thus give all members time for the upcoming holidays. Kevin seconded. Motion carried. Mitchell moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm and Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting January 18, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Summers