



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 4, 2025

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on February 4, 2025 and began at 6:19pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Debbie Kulick presiding.

**In attendance were:** Committee Members: Debbie Kulick On Zoom: Jaime Smith, Marilyn Brown, Laura Massaro, Carolyn Metaxas Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson MST Liaison: Chris Rain Members of the Public: Danny Younger.

Jaime Smith made a motion to accept the agenda. Carolyn Metaxas seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**Reorganization of the Committee:** Jaime Smith was appointed chair by the Board of Supervisors at their 2025 reorganization meeting. Jaime Smith made a motion to appoint Laura Massaro as vice chair and Carolyn Metaxas as secretary for 2025. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Jaime Smith made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2024 meeting. Carolyn Metaxas seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**2025 Meeting Schedule:** Chris Rain provided the Committee with the 2025 meeting schedule. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 6:15pm, except September which will be Tuesday September 3, due to Labor Day.

**Park rental application revisions:** Chris Rain provided the Committee with the current park rental application and a proposed revised version. The revision is reformatted and clarifies and updates parts of the rental policy, including a suggested capacity limit of 50 people. The current policy states that events that may exceed the parking capacity are not permitted. Jaime Smith suggested “50 people at a time” to allow events such as fundraisers that may have more than 50 people, but where attendees may come and go during the event.

Mr. Rain also asked the committee for their input on allowing an applicant holding a fundraiser to have a petting zoo. The applicant organization and the vendor are insured and the vendor states that they completely clean the area after the event. The committee stated they are fine to allow the petting zoo at the event.

**Events:** Chris Rain provided a draft of the 2025 sponsorship brochure to the committee for their review. He plans to mail them out to sponsors around Valentine’s Day.

Dates for the 2025 events were provided to the committee. Chris Rain will follow up with the committee members regarding event coordinators. The next event is Eggstravaganza on Saturday April 5 at Resica Park. Chris Rain stated that the rain date will be Sunday April 6.

**Community Gardens:** Chris Rain stated that renewal forms had gone out to all of the 2024 gardeners and several were received back. He will send out reminders later in February.

Danny Younger attended the meeting to discuss the compost areas with the committee. Volunteer turnover has made it difficult to maintain the piles. He and gardener Janet Garrity suggest that public works remove the

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existing compost piles and install a bin that gardeners can put their garden waste into. Mike Dwyer suggested a 10 yard dumpster in the back corner of the fenced area where the piles currently are. The dumpster could be emptied and contents taken to Oak Grove compost facility as needed. Mr. Younger stated that this was a good solution. Jaime Smith asked whether a dumpster would attract garbage dumping. Chris Rain stated that the dumpster will be inside the locked fenced area at the back. Anyone that dumps garbage there is unlikely to take their trash all the way there. They are more likely to just leave it in the parking lot.

**Dog Park:** The water is shut off due to a leak in the pipe. Mike Dwyer stated that public works will fix the issue in the spring and will install a shed for the pump to hopefully prevent it from happening again.

**Echo Lake:** No report.

**Judy Putek:** No report.

**Resica:** No report.

**Litter and Beautification:** No report.

**Bike Park:** Chris Rain stated that the next meeting for the bike park committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday March 26 at 6pm at the Smithfield Township building. He will update the committee when the date is confirmed. The engineer will present proposed plans to the committee and boards of supervisors at this meeting. Mike Dwyer encouraged the members of the Township's parks committee to attend.

**Mt Nebo:** No report.

**Resica Falls:** Chris Rain stated that the trail project should be completed in March.

**Parks Projects for 2025:** Chris Rain stated that he submitted an application for a \$5,000 grant to One for Nature to fund the purchase of Bearsaver trash cans for all of the parks except Echo Lake, which already has them. He is looking at DCNR grants for new playground equipment at Echo Lake that the committee has previously discussed. Debbie Kulick provided Mr. Rain with a list of other potential grants to apply to this year.

**Announcements:** Annette Atkinson spoke to the committee about America 250 and asked the committee to come up with ideas about how the Township can commemorate the event. The supervisors hope that each committee can come up with a project.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday March 3, 2025 at 6:15pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Carolyn Metaxas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain  
Middle Smithfield Township