



Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – June 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on June 2, 2025 and began at 6:23pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Carolyn Metaxas presiding.

In attendance were: Committee Members: Carolyn Metaxas On Zoom: Marilyn Brown, Laura Massaro, Jaime Smith Board of Supervisors: Annette Atkinson (on Zoom) MST Liaison: Chris Rain Members of the Public: Deb Conklin.

Jaime Smith made a motion to accept the agenda. Carolyn Metaxas seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Carolyn Metaxas made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 7 meeting. The motion was not seconded. Neither Laura Massaro nor Jaime Smith were present at the April meeting. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Marilyn Brown joined the meeting late and did not participate in the votes on the agenda or minutes.

Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: None.

Events: Chris Rain reported that there were 20 vendors signed up for Community Day so far. He is talking to a magician about performing at the event. He also plans to look for lawn games people can play. Carolyn Metaxas stated she would send a list of vendors from Resica Elementary's Literacy Night as suggestions for vendors to contact. Laura Massaro stated that Monroe County Technical Institute (MCTI) recently received a large grant to provide free classes. Chris Rain will reach out to them about attending Community Day.

Community Gardens: Chris Rain stated that he was reaching out to gardeners with unused plots to encourage them to use the plots or give them up for other gardeners to use. More wood to repair plots was delivered. He also stated that beekeeper Vicky Smith had reported that the bees are doing well so far.

Dog Park: Chris Rain stated that the water issue has not yet been addressed.

Echo Lake: No report.

Judy Putek: No report.

Resica: No report.

Litter and Beautification: Chris Rain stated that the 209 planters were planted on May 23 and are out on Rt 209 now. He thanked Debbie Kulick, Deb Conklin, and Sharlotte Giberson for helping.

Chris Rain reported that the Township was awarded a \$5,000 grant from One for Nature for new BearSaver trash cans for the parks. The trash cans were purchased and out at the parks and he has submitted for reimbursement.

Chris Rain also reported that the Township was awarded a \$6,200 grant from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau for the Tidy Township program.

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Bike Park: No update.

Mt Nebo: No update

Resica Falls: Chris Rain stated that all of the parking signs were installed and he had done blazes on sections of the trails. He was not able to access certain areas due to high water in creeks that cross the trails in certain places. He also reported he had submitted to One for Nature for the reimbursement for the \$3,250 grant awarded in 2024.

Wooddale Park: Chris Rain reported that the Township was awarded \$239,238 grant from Local Share Account Monroe County to support the project. He stated the Township engineer was putting together a plan for the project and encouraged the committee to submit thoughts they have.

Parks Projects for 2025: Regarding the proposed letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing support for a splash pad, Jaime Smith stated she had reviewed research sent to the committee by Marilyn Brown against the project. She appreciated the thorough research, but stated she was still in favor of a splash pad. Carolyn Metaxas and Laura Massaro agreed. Carolyn Metaxas stated that the community would appreciate a free option in the Township. Laura Massaro stated she would share feedback from someone she knows at Pocono Township regarding their experience with the splash pad they installed. Marilyn Brown stated she was still against a splash pad. Carolyn Metaxas made a motion to submit the letter as written to the Board of Supervisors for their review and response. Jaime Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1.

Announcements: None.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday July 7, 2025 at 6:15pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Laura Massaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Marilyn Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain

Middle Smithfield Township