



Minutes: Parks and Recreation Committee February 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on February 2, 2015 and began at 6:34pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Abigail Graham presiding.

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Eric Graham; MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Board of Supervisors, Annette Atkinson and Mike Dwyer (was only able to stay briefly); Historical Commission Member, Danny Younger; Community Gardens Task Force Member, Ruth Cahill and Parks and Recreation Board Members – Abigail Graham, Raquel Barbera and Jeff Reichl.

Minutes

Raquel Barbera made a motion to accept the minutes from November 3, 2014, Abigail Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Courtesy of Floor/Members of Public

Danny Younger, with the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission, introduced a possible joint event to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Younger requested help from the Parks Committee in making this event a success. The idea is to bring an original Wells Fargo, road worthy stage coach back to Middle Smithfield Township. The stage coach would travel from Milford, Pa to Middle Smithfield Township's Echo Lake Park following the original mail run. The event would be held on July 4, 2015 from 12 noon – 5:00pm. It was talked about having a BBQ, along with children's games and other historical event booths, as well as other committee booths, etc.

Help with safely transporting the stage coach would have to come from the National Park Service (since the stagecoach will be traveling through that) and traffic control, such as a fire company or Constables. Mr. Younger will look into this more. Mr. Younger is also meeting with an advisor to talk about what would be the right direction to take for requesting funding for the event.

Abigail Graham suggested replacing Community Day with the stage coach event instead. Jeff Reichl made a motion to eliminate Community Day from the 2015 planned events, Raquel Barbera seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Raquel Barbera made a motion to work with the Historical Commission in helping to plan the stage coach joint event, Jeff Reichl seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Correspondence – None

Parks

Community Gardens – The gardens were briefly discussed. Status as of now is that there is still site work that will have to be done in the spring along with fencing being put up. There is a Boy Scout that will be working on building a shed for the gardens as his Eagle Scout project. Many residents are looking forward to the gardening classes that will be offered.

Echo Lake Park – Jeff Reichl reported that the Frisbee golf will be installed in the spring. There was talk about the parking lot being expanded (along 209 expanded southward) along with post and rail being put up along Route 209 to divide the traffic from the highway as a safety precaution.

Jeff Reichl will contact Joe Schnon about his Eagle Scout project (Veterans Memorial at Echo Lake Park) that he had started and what the status was for it.

Jeff Reichl explained more about the park to Danny Younger. Mr. Younger asked about possibly putting a dock out on the wetlands at Echo that run along the walking trail. Many felt this may not be possible due to all the permits and requirements that would be needed, but it could be looked into, and possibly incorporated into the master plan for the park.

Mr. Reichl would like to focus more on the development of the baseball field once the Frisbee golf is finished being set up, since there is a definite lack of adult fields in the area. Annette Atkinson also stated that Sharon Laverdure, School Superintendent, also stated that another ball field was needed. As Raquel is President of East Stroudsburg Little League and Softball, her advice and expertise will be needed.

Resica Park – One of the spring projects would be to build a new planter around the Resica Park sign. Ruth Cahill will check around to see if she can find any volunteers to help with the park flowers. Annette Atkinson made a suggestion to use milk crates as removable planters that can be swapped out though out the year at all parks and key township locations for a continuous bloom. This would be a joint project with Litter and Beautification. A hole would be dug the depth of the crates and then the crates could be slid in and out of the hole as needed (e.g. daffodils in spring, iris, mums in fall, etc.). Erin Groome will propose a budget (e.g. how much area would need to be covered, the cost for milk crates, etc.) for this idea.

Egg Hunt – The annual egg hunt will be held on March 28, 2015. The committee would like to do juice and snacks again for the children after the hunt is over. Will need to find a volunteer to wear the bunny costume this year. Jeff Reichl will borrow the costume from the Winona Lakes Association again this year. Volunteers are needed to help run the event. A suggestion was made to allow the children to enter in different areas so kids are not trampled for the middle age group. Annette Atkinson suggested that the notes from the debriefing meeting after last year's event be gathered and distributed. (After the event last year a meeting was held and ideas emailed about how to make the event better; for example, giving children a container to gather eggs – once it is filled, they are done (rather than letting them bring pillowcases.). Abigail Graham asked that we have an alternate snack option, like a bag of apples, in case of food allergies. Erin Groome will order the filled eggs again for the hunt within the next week.

Jeff Reichl made a motion to give Erin Groome permission to order all park supplies that would be needed though out the year, Abigail Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Raquel Barbera request that the old dog fencing when taken down and if still in good use, be moved to the little league back ball field at Resica Park. This would help with safety concerns that many have.

Erin Groome talked briefly about a Girl Scout project that would be for the Resica Park trail or kiosk. The girls would be working toward a bronze badge. One of the projects would be to mark out the walking trail to point out particular types of plants and nature. More to be discussed at the March parks meeting.

Putek Park – Abigail Graham noted that with the new dog park soon to be built, Putek Park would once again become the nature park and preserve it was intended to be.

With the new dog park, the transition should be fairly quick. Mrs. Graham felt the old fencing should come down quickly after the new dog park is opened on Leroy's Lane. Mrs. Graham will also work on a question/answer information page that will be posted in the kiosk at Putek Park.

Abigail Graham questioned how much land would be cleared so that the new dog park is visible from Route 209 for safety reasons. An email will be sent to Mike Dwyer to ask about this. Solar lighting was suggested.

Danny Younger suggested a scout project of building a fitness trail at Putek Park once the dog park is moved to the new location. Annette Atkinson informed him that Scout Leader Francis Oquando was already working on this for Resica Park trails. A botanical garden was also suggested for the park. Mr. Younger also talked about a pier that could be spanned though the wetlands. Jeff Reichl noted that this idea and pier is already on the original development plans of the park. Mr. Reichl informed Mr. Younger that Judy Putek's vision of the park was to be a nature park. Will work on the development of the park more in the future once the dog park has moved to the new location.

Litter and Beautification

1,000 Feet of Street - A brief recap of the fall 1,000 Feet of Street roadside cleanup was given. More volunteers are needed to be able to clean more of the township roads. 147 Boy Scouts cleaned Route 402 and are planning to work more with the township at the next roadside cleanup in order to expand to more roads. All of Route 209 in Middle Smithfield Township was cleaned along with the state portion of Sellersville Drive, and Tom X Road from Sellersville to Gravel Ridge Road. The next 1,000 Feet of Street will be on April 25, 2015.

New Business

Reappointments – The reappointments were tabled till the next month so that the entire board could be present for the reappointments.

Future Events

Egg Hunt - March 28, 2015, Volunteers Needed

1,000 Feet of Street – April 25, 2015, Volunteers Needed

Announcements – None

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6:30pm. Jeff Reichl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm; Abigail Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erin Groome

Parks and Recreation Liaison