



Minutes: Parks and Recreation Committee March 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on March 2, 2015 and began at 6:37pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Abigail Graham presiding.

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Eric Graham, Michelle Dellavalle and Maureen Tanczos (Girl Scout Troop 50691 Leader); MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Board of Supervisors, Annette Atkinson and Mike Dwyer; Historical Commission Member, Danny Younger; Community Gardens Task Force Member, Jessica Dokachev and Parks and Recreation Board Members – Abigail Graham, Raquel Barbera, Jenna Componovo and Jeff Reichl.

Minutes

Jenna Componovo made a motion to accept the minutes from February 2, 2015, Raquel Barbera seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Reappointments of Park Leads

Resica Park – Raquel Barbera

Echo Lake Park – Jeff Reichl

Putek Park – Abigail Graham

Coolbaugh Community Garden Park – Michelle Dellavalle

Courtesy of Floor/Members of Public

Correspondence – None

Parks

Resica Park

Old Business

Egg Hunt – Raquel Barbera informed the group that she had about 15 volunteers to help with the egg hunt. Weather was talked about and the expectation is that there will either still be snow on the ground or the fields would be muddy. As an alternate solution to this, cellophane bags will be filled with eggs and handed out to all the children that show up for the egg hunt. Erin Groome will purchase 300 bags from the Ribbon Factory. Raquel Barbera said she could have volunteers fill the bags March 7, 2015 during a softball meeting that will be held at the township municipal office. Mike Dwyer informed the board that the Bushkill Group would like to donate gift cards to be used for the golden egg prizes. A pre-event update email will be sent out on March 9, 2015 to give an update of what the status is for the egg hunt. A decision will be made then to see if a special event planning meeting will be needed.

It was talked about having residents fill out the parks surveys again during the Egg Hunt. Erin Groome felt this survey should be changed. Jeff Reichl suggested compiling a results list and what has been achieved at the township parks as a pamphlet instead of the survey. Mr. Reichl will work on the survey results. Abigail Graham volunteered to design an information pamphlet of what has been accomplished at the township parks and what is to come at the local parks.

Flowerbeds – will discuss this more at the next parks and recreation meeting.

New Business

Girl Scout Troop 50691 presented to the parks board members a request to clean up the walking trail located at the park. Girl Scout, Nicole Baines, talked about a bronze badge that the troop would like to earn by fixing up the Resica Park trail. Some work they would like to do to the trail is to put distance markers in, information signs and some spring cleanup work. Abigail Graham asked if there would be paperwork that would have to be submitted. Troop Leader, Maureen Tanczos informed Mrs. Graham that there was paperwork and approvals that do get submitted to the Girl Scout Council in order to earn the badge. Mrs. Graham suggested that the girl scouts work out a draft plan of what they wanted to do on the trail. The parks board granted the Girl Scouts permission to start work and will work closely with Parks Liaison, Erin Groome, to make sure the project is not delayed since there is a time frame. Erin Groome will also contact Parks and Recreation member, Bill Bonser, for his assistance on the project. Work is expected to start as soon as the snow melts.

Coolbaugh Community Gardens

Old Business

Mike Dwyer updated the group of the work status and said the park is expected to be ready for planting by May 9, 2015. The RFP (Request for Proposal) will be approved at the March 12, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting. Grading work is expected to start March 23, 2015, with the fence installation to be completed by May 8, 2015.

Annette Atkinson noted that any gardener must complete the organic practice class that will be given in order to be able to garden at the park. The class will be offered Saturday, March 24, 2015. This class will be taped and posted online so that anyone that cannot make the organic practices class can watch it online and be able rent a plot. Abigail Graham suggested having a handout that could inform the gardener of organic practices. Jenna Componovo suggested placing a kiosk at the park that would house tips and rules of the park. Michelle Dellavalle noted that when she helped work with the Barrett Township community gardens they did not have a requirement that renters had to garden organic. Mrs. Dellavalle noted that there is an app that you can use on your phone that gives organic planting tips.

New Business

Abigail Graham asked if Michelle Dellavalle would like to be the lead for the Community Gardens, Mrs. Dellavalle accepted.

Putek Park

Old Business

Abigail Graham presented a facts sheet for the dog park to help answer common resident questions that could be hung at Putek Park in the kiosk. The committee members thought it was very well done and had only minor suggestions. Mrs. Graham will make the corrections and design a new flyer to be hung at the park.

Mike Dwyer informed the committee members of the construction time table for the new dog park to be placed at Leroy's Lane. The RFP (Request for Proposal) will be approved at the March 12, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting. Grading work is expected to start April 6, 2015, with the fence installation to be completed by May 15, 2015.

There was talk about removing trees at the park for more visibility and security. Lighting was also suggested – this will be looked into more, but feel it may not be necessary.

New Business

Abigail Graham noted that once the new dog park is opened at Leroy's Lane, a new park lead will be needed for Putek Park. Mike Dwyer felt this may not be necessary and feels the park will take care of its self. Mr. Dwyer is uncertain if a park lead would be needed. Putek is expected to transition back to a nature park.

Echo Lake Park

Old Business

Stage Coach Event – Danny Younger asked Mike Dwyer if he had heard from PennDOT about the special use permit to run the stage coach on Route 209. Mr. Dwyer said that he has not heard from PennDOT yet. Mr. Dwyer does not feel PennDOT will issue this permit and an alternate option should be considered. One option could be to give rides in the stage coach around Echo Lake Park. Danny Younger noted that the event proposal has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Jeff Reichl will be working with Danny Younger to help organize the stage coach event.

Ball field – Jeff Reichl will be working on getting quotes for the production of the ball field.

Disc Golf – the course is expected to be installed at Echo Lake Park by May 21, 2015.

Playground – Jenna Componovo is working on getting pricing for a new playground to be placed at Echo Lake Park. Mrs. Componovo is currently waiting for information to be sent to her.

New Business - None

Litter and Beautification

1,000 Feet of Street – The roadside cleanup will take place on April 25, 2015. The Boy Scouts will have about 100 volunteers to help with the roadside clean up. Erin Groome will check with the Girl Scouts to see if they will be able to volunteer to help also.

As of now, Parks members that can volunteer to help with the cleanup are: Abigail Graham, Eric Graham, Jeff Reichl, Raquel Barbera, Annette Atkinson, Mike Dwyer, Erin Groome and Michelle Dellavalle.

Jeff Reichl made a motion to appoint Jenna Componovo as the Parks and Recreation Committee vice-chairman, Raquel Barbera seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Annette Atkinson announced that help is needed for writing grants. This would help the parks committee to achieve future projects.

Abigail Graham suggested getting the new dog park and community gardens park open and running before having any grand opening celebration.

Announcements

Danny Younger notified the Parks Committee that the Monroe County Historical Society is in contact with the Delaware River National Park Service to possible lease the Peters House from them.

Committee Action Items

Abigail Graham – Dog Park kiosk facts flyer

Raquel Barbera – Find a volunteer to be the bunny for the egg hunt and fill bags with eggs on Saturday, March 7, 2015

Jeff Reichl – Get bunny suit from Winona Lakes Association for township to borrow

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 6:30pm. Jeff Reichl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm; Raquel Barbera seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erin Groome

Parks and Recreation Liaison