



Minutes: Parks and Recreation Committee May 4, 2015

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on May 4, 2015 and began at 6:35pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Abigail Graham presiding.

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Eric Graham, Bill Bonser, James Durham, Zac Caporusso and Maureen Tanczos; MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Board of Supervisors, Annette Atkinson and Mike Dwyer and Parks and Recreation Board Members – Abigail Graham, Raquel Barbera, Michelle Dellavalle and Jenna Componovo.

Correspondence

Erin Groome shared some literature that was received regarding the Liberty-Water Gap Trail Extension located in the Delaware Water Gap area.

Minutes

Jenna Componovo made a motion to accept the minutes from April 6, 2015, Michelle Dellavalle seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Parks

Resica Park

Maureen Tanczos, Girl Scout Troop 50691 Leader, presented to the board the scavenger hunt chart that will be used on the Resica Park Trail. The scavenger hunt papers will be laminated and will be posted at the entrance of the trail. The troop would like to post different signs thought out the park trail – Ex: No Smoking signs, Trail Ends Here sign, Carry out What You Carried in Signs. These signs would most likely be posted on a 4'x4' post.

Raquel Barbera reported that the trash can located by the Little League sign is a constant issue. Would it be possible to get a second can in this location? Little League has been emptying the trash here, but needs help from Public Works.

There is a tree down along the walking trail at Resica Park. Erin Groome will inform Public Works of this and have them clean up the tree

Annette Atkinson noted that she owed Raquel Barbera a plant list that is deer and drought resistant. A budget of \$100 was approved to use for buying flowers that will be placed at the park. Mrs. Barbera would like to dedicate a flower bed in honor of Coach Val Lichtenstein, Jr. that recently passed.

Egg hunt – Abigail Graham feels that we should not change the event to a spring jamboree just yet after reading what the newspaper wrote, but perhaps phase in the Earth Day event. Mrs. Graham would like to see an alternate solution to having the Egg Hunt outdoors at Resica, maybe having it at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall if bad weather is predicted. A change to the flyer for weather issues would need to be included. There would need to be different scheduled age times. There should only be one fire truck and not the two due to space restraints. Bill Bonser noted that he has done many events and you can never satisfy everyone.

Community Gardens (mstCommunityGardensPark.com)

Annette Atkinson informed the parks committee board that the series of classes went very well and were a huge success. Cumulatively, 25-30 people were involved. Pollinator friendly plants, along with items for bees to help pollinate the plants will be planted.

Annette Atkinson attended the Monroe County Beekeeper's Association meeting and is now a member. A hive will be kept at the garden. Member Paul Cimei is installing a swarm box. The Beekeepers would like to have a master gardener hold a class on pollination on Wednesday May 27, 2015 at 7:00pm at the township building.

Mike Dwyer informed the parks committee board that the site work is just about done, mesh still needs to be laid out and then covered with fill dirt. Fencing will then be installed and garden boxes built. The projected open date is now early June.

Putek Park

Abigail Graham said that there was an old barn hinge full of rusty nails that was dug out from the ground & removed that was in the penned in area; the new dog park will be much safer.

Bill Bonser was given the ok to plant flowers around the Putek Park sign again.

Mike Dwyer noted that the fencing will be removed from the old dog park once the new dog park is up and running. Mr. Dwyer does not want to leave the old fencing up due to residents still coming to this park and thinking it is the dog park, and the fence can be repurposed elsewhere.

Abigail Graham asked about getting cameras posted at Putek Park for security. Mike Dwyer said he will have to speak with the Township Solicitor, Michael Gaul, to see if this would be allowed or not. One suggestion was to install motion lights in the parking lot.

Echo Lake Park

Mike Dwyer reported that the Frisbee golf course has been installed. On April 18, 2015 Mike Dwyer and Jeff Reichl met at Echo Lake Park and mapped out the course. The nets and stone have been installed. Mr. Dwyer would like to still get score cards and mile markers for the course. Mr. Dwyer noted that the rules still need to be posted at the Frisbee golf course. The course has already gotten use with it not even being completely finished. The course is 9 holes currently, but would like to make it a 18 hole course in the future.

It was noted that the kiosk located at Echo Lake Park was repaired, but would like to consider installing a new kiosk in the future.

Boy Scout John Schoun dug out Veteran's Memorial area back in the fall and there has not been anymore contact with him since, Erin Groome will try to get in contact with him to get a status update.

New Dog Park

Mike Dwyer will contact the fence company so that a vestibule for the dogs can be installed before they enter the play area. Erin Groome informed the parks committee board that the new park sign has been ordered. A projected opening day is expected to be Memorial Day weekend. Mike Dwyer noted that the spigot has not been installed yet. Post and rail fencing will be installed along Leroy's Lane as well as the parking lot. A parking lot will be built, along with picnic tables placed in each pen. Permanent bathrooms will be built at a later date with grants; port-a-johns will be installed as a temporary solution. Some kind of motion sensor security lighting will be installed in the new parking lot (park closes at dusk).

Litter and Beautification

1,000 Feet of Street – Mike Dwyer said there was about 85 to 90 volunteers that attended and helped to clean up the roads in Middle Smithfield Township. These volunteers included about 40 boy scouts and local residents that took time out from their busy schedules to help. Mr. Dwyer still needs to get the final details from Karen Stapleton but feels group surpassed what was cleaned last time. For the fall roadside cleanup, Mr. Dwyer would like to see other areas of the township incorporated into the roadside cleanup like Coolbaugh Road, Wooddale Road and other local township roads.

Announcements

Annette Atkinson announced that the Pocono Photo Club Exhibit opening reception was held at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 6:00pm. All were welcome to attend and enjoy this event. Photos will be on display the whole month of May.

Mrs. Atkinson also announced that Restaurant Week will be running from May 11 – May 17, 2015. Local participating restaurants are giving a special discount and new menus to all customers. See mstEatLocal.com.

It was asked that a time line be developed for all the different scouting projects that are being worked on so that they can be better tracked and not forgotten about. Mike Dwyer did note that the scouts do have their own process that has to be followed too.

Individual Action Items

Bill Bonser – Flowers for Putek Park

Raquel Barbera – Flowers for Resica Park

Michelle Dellavalle and Annette Atkinson – Bee Hive work for Community Gardens

Jenna Componovo – Playground information for Echo Lake Park

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:30pm. Jenna Componovo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm; Abigail Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erin Groome
Parks and Recreation Liaison