

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks Commission was held on May 6 2013 at 6:27 p.m. at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Joyce Fenical presiding.

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Edie Brouse; Stephanie Wise; Abigail Graham; Eric Graham; Charlie Palecek; David Steglite; MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Supervisors – Annette Atkinson and Michael Dwyer; Mitchell Marcus ; Advisory Board Members – Thomas Corcoran, Suzanne Corcoran; Bill Bonser, Debbie Kulick, Holly Halterman, Al Decker and Cary Dailey; and P&R Board Members – Joyce Fenical, Bill Suriano, and Karen Conway; P&R Board Members not in attendance were Joyce Bush and Jeff Reichl who was available via phone between 6:55-7:00p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Joyce Fenical motioned to approve the minutes of April 1, 2013 while Karen Conway seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Courtesy of the Floor: A member of the public asked about the rumor of the J. Putek Dog Park being moved. Mr. Dwyer responded that the Township is exploring the possibility to reclassifying the park at another location in response to the need for expanding parking and a larger space. Mr. Dwyer said they will temporarily close the park, weather permitting, on 5/13 or 5/14 to spray for ticks and weeds.

Old Business:

1. Parks Survey-Joyce Fenical indicated that there was a good response to the Township Parks survey and that more information would follow.
2. Clean Up Day-Both Joyce Fenical and Mike Dwyer indicated that clean up day held on April 27 was successful. Many volunteers from the Parks and the Litter and Beautification Boards helped to fill a 20 yard dumpster.

Echo Lake Park

No report provided.

Mr. Dwyer indicated that the Township will attempt to schedule some work there in July.

Resica Park

Karen Conway said she is still waiting for contact from the Boy Scouts regarding possible project help. She hopes to set up a "Day in the Park" after June 13. Bill Bonser volunteered to assist.

Putek Park

No report provided.

New Business

1. On a motion from Karen Conway and seconded by Bill Suriano the Board approved, by a 3-0 vote, a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the removal of Joyce Bush as a Parks & Recreation Board member.
2. On a motion from Jeff Reichl via a speaker phone call at 6:55 pm, and a second from Bill Suriano, the Board approved, by a 3-0-1 (abstention by K. Conway), Karen Conway to serve as interim Lead Coordinator for the J. Putek Park until 12/31/13 pending Board of Supervisor action on # 1 above.
3. On a motion from Bill Suriano and seconded by Jeff Reichl via a speaker phone call at 7:00pm, the Board agreed, by a vote of 4-0, to accept a Letter of Interest/Qualifications to fill the possible position of Resica Interim Lead Coordinator. The due date would be on/before 5/20/13 to the Chair, pending Board of Supervisor action on #1 above.

Announcements

Karen Conway gave an update of the Resica Elementary School/Community fundraiser to build a new "Jungle Gym" apparatus on the school grounds. She indicated the new construction date is now projected to be Spring 2014. The School will be promoting a "Buy a Tile or Board" fundraiser. More information will follow.

Next Meeting Scheduled for June 3, 2013, 6:15p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56p.m.on a motion from Bill Suriano and seconded by Karen Conway.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Suriano

For Immediate Release
May 1, 2013

MONROE COUNTY TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR OPEN SPACE, GREENWAYS AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Monroe County will sponsor the final public meeting in its process to update the countywide Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan.

Monroe County residents are encouraged to attend the public meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 7pm in the meeting room of the Monroe County Conservation District offices (8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg).

The purpose of the public meeting is to present findings to date and continue to collect information and opinions from the community concerning open space, greenway and recreation issues.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Available recreation opportunities within each municipality
- Level of protection for open spaces available to the public
- Potential stakeholders partnerships
- Open spaces protection strategies
- Suggested priority projects
- Funding opportunities

A separate workshop "charrette" will be conducted with conservancy groups at 4pm on the same day and location, and it is also open to the public.

Monroe County has made tremendous progress in protecting its scenic and ecologically sensitive landscapes through a series of coordinated initiatives – beginning with the Monroe 2020 planning process that started in 1996.

In 1998, Monroe County voters approved a \$25M bond issue and the Monroe County Open Space Plan was subsequently adopted in 2001.

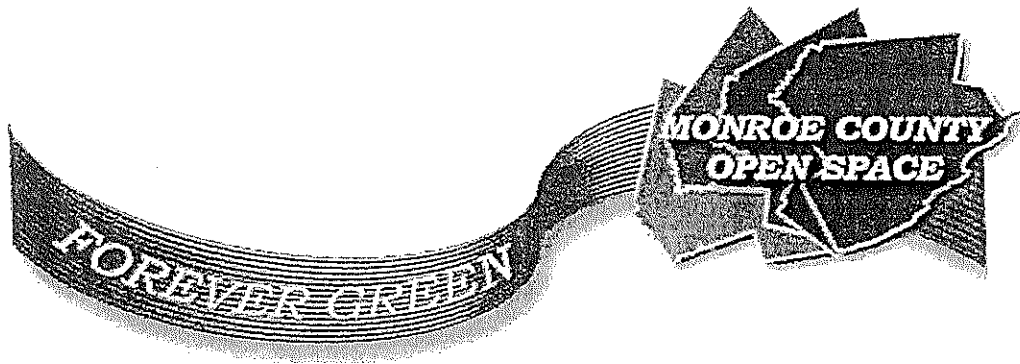
The successful county Open Space Program that followed, included the establishment of six multi-municipal plans as a natural outgrowth of the Monroe 2020 plan – which continues to be recognized across Pennsylvania as a model of participatory planning that engaged all leadership levels in the County as well as a broad base of citizens.

Since the passage of the 1998 bond referendum and the adoption of the Open Space Plan, Monroe has committed \$11M in County funding toward protection of over 18,000 acres and has leveraged almost \$75 million in state and municipal matching funds.

The six multi-municipal open space and recreation plans encompass the 20 municipalities within Monroe County. From this planning effort, four regional recreation commissions were created, of which three have executive directors.

In 2013, the Monroe County Open Space Program has achieved successes well beyond its original goals, and the update process is intended to refocus those efforts for the next decade. Monroe County residents are encouraged to participate in the public meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 7pm.

For additional information, contact Christine Dettore, Director of Planning for Monroe County at CDettore@monroecountypa.gov



Blue Mountain Recreation Commission
www.bmsd.org/recreation

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