



Minutes: Parks and Recreation Committee July 6, 2015

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

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Ruth Cahill and Jeanne Dunstane; MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Board of Supervisors, Annette Atkinson and Mike Dwyer and Parks and Recreation Board Members – Abigail Graham (via phone), Michelle Dellavalle, Jenna Componovo and Jeff Reichl.

Correspondence

Erin Groome presented a flyer she received via email from Regional Parks for National Trails Day. The flyer listed many different local parks that were holding different dated trail hikes. The Parks Board all agreed that they would have liked Middle Smithfield Township Parks to have been included in this listing. Erin Groome will research who needs to be contacted so that Middle Smithfield Parks can be included on the next event flyer.

Minutes

Jenna Componovo made a motion to accept the minutes from June 1, 2015, Jeff Reichl seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Parks

Resica

Mike Dwyer informed the board that fencing was available for the back ballfield at Resica Park. The fencing was from the old Middle Smithfield Elementary School field. Volunteers are needed to install the fencing at the park.

Mr. Dwyer informed the Parks board that Raquel Barbera is resigning from the parks board due to Mrs. Barbera moving away. The Board of Supervisors are now accepting letters of interest in hopes to find a replacement for Mrs. Barbera.

Erin Groome reported that the Girl Scouts were just about finished with posting all the signs on the walking trail and that the scavenger papers were finished and posted at the entrance of the walking trail. Ms. Groome will speak more with the troop leader to get a final finish date.

Jenna Componovo will type up her ideas that she has for the Halloween Trunk or Treat/Treat Trail and email these ideas to the parks board members before the August Parks and Recreation meeting so that it can be discussed more then.

Community Gardens

It was asked about finding Roger the Rooster from the community gardens a new home. Many residents fear for the safety of the rooster and he has become a new sense. Michelle Dellavalle will look into finding a new home for the rooster.

Annette Atkinson informed the parks board that a Master Gardener will be at the community gardens every other sat from 8am-10am so that residents can ask questions and different learning classes will be held at this time also. Mrs. Atkinson requested pop-up tent and table that could

be put up these days to provide a little extra shade for the gardeners. Jeff Reichl mentioned that Danny Younger suggested holding a fundraiser that could pay for a gazebo.

Currently the main gate is not being locked due to the Public Works Department work schedule. The Public Works Department is able to open the gate in the morning, but is not able to lock up at night. Michelle Dellavalle volunteered her time to lock the gate at night. A key lock or a combination lock could be placed on the gate and only the community garden renters would have access. Mike Dwyer suggested trying a combination lock for now and see how it works. Jeanne Dunstane said she has a card key lock for the national park service garden she belongs to; the lock is powered by solar energy. Annette Atkinson informed the group that she researched security lights that could be posted at the entrance and work off batteries. This could be another form of safety to ward off unwanted theft. Mrs. Atkinson also talked about needing to place rocks around the base of the fencing to help deter the critters from getting through the fencing. This would need the help of volunteers. The township could haul a load of rock and place it at the gardens so that volunteers could place it around the perimeter or even around their beds to help with the muddy conditions. Annette Atkinson also suggested laying landscape fabric down around the boxes and then placing woodchips on top to help with the muddy conditions as help to save the gardeners knees. Another suggestion was electric fencing.

Annette Atkinson asked that the East Stroudsburg Little League be contacted so that the garden box that was reserved by Raquel Barbera can still be taken care of now that she will be leaving.

Dog Park at Leroy's Lane/Putek

Mike Dwyer asked Abigail Graham if the dog park had been registered with a dog park search site. Mrs. Graham said as of right now, the park had not been registered, but had planned to get the new dog park listed. Mr. Dwyer suggested that Mrs. Graham and Erin Groome work together to get the park listed. When Mrs. Graham is back in town, she will get with Ms. Groome to work on registering the park.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the fencing is down at Putek Park.

Echo Lake

Jenna Componovo presented to the board her suggestions for a user-friendly playground that could be built at Echo Lake Park, some of these would be: fencing around the playground for extra safety, seating, ample shading, multiple play areas, equipment available for all age groups of children, ample trash bins available and ADA compliant equipment which there are more grants available to help purchase the new playground equipment. The best area that Jenna Componovo and Jeff Reichl felt would work the best would be behind the kiosk in the tree line area where there is still ample shading. The area would be a 40'x60' area. This would also be off to the side far enough so that it was not sitting in front of the soccer field. The current dirt track that sits beside the soccer field could be cleaned out & reused for a scoot toy track. There could be other types of playground toys added to this area to create more use of the area. Seating was talked about and Abigail Graham recommended memorial benches that residents could purchase in remembrance of a past loved one. Jeff Reichl would like to move the current benches that are at the park to different locations around the park for better use.

It was suggested that the Frisbee Golf course could be made into a 18 hole course without adding more nets. Each hole could have two different starting points that would change the angle of play and add the additional course holes.

Mike Dwyer reported that the Veterans Memorial project that Boy Scout, Joe Schoun, will be working on project more diligently now that school is out and he has raised all the funds needed to complete the project. Jeff Reichl asked for new soccer nets to be purchased, current nets are in disrepair. Erin Groome will make sure to have these ordered within the next week. Michelle Dellavalle offered her help to Mrs. Componovo and Mr. Reichl in researching playground grants that are available.

Litter and Beautification – Fall 1,000 Feet of Street Clean Up will be held November 14, 2014.

Abigail Graham would like to talk more with Jeff Reichl before the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to find out a little bit more on what the Regional Parks Committee is all about before the August meeting.

Announcements – None

Individual Action Items

Jeff Reichl – Regional Park Committee

Jenna Componovo – playground grant work and Halloween ideas email to members

Michelle Dellavalle – help with grant research and community gardens with Annette Atkinson

Erin Groome – order new soccer nets for Echo Lake Park

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 6:30pm. Michelle Dellavalle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm; Jeff Reichl seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erin Groome
Parks and Recreation Liaison