



## **Minutes: Parks and Recreation Committee      September 9, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on September 9, 2015 and began at 6:33pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Abigail Graham presiding.

In attendance were: Members of the Public – Eric Graham, Danny Younger and Chauly Younger; MST Liaison – Erin Groome; Board of Supervisor, Mike Dwyer (via phone conference) and Parks and Recreation Board Members – Abigail Graham, Michelle Dellavalle, Jeff Reichl and Jenna Componovo.

### **Correspondence**

Erin Groome stated that she had received an email from Annette Atkinson that spoke about how Mrs. Atkinson had received a phone call from the Planning Commission Chairman, Bob Early. Mr. Early complimented the township on how nice the new Dog Park and Community Gardens looked.

Erin Groome also informed the parks board that she had received a post card from the Easter egg supplier about using the eggs for fall festivities.

### **Minutes**

Jeff Reichl made a motion to accept the minutes from August 3, 2015, Abigail Graham seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Parks**

#### **Resica**

It was asked if any board members knew of any interested residents that were interested in applying for the vacant parks board spot. Parks Committee members will still put the word out that there is still a vacancy. It was asked that maybe the Resica PTO members could be asked about filling the vacancy. Mike Dwyer was uncertain if this idea would pan out. Michelle Dellavalle volunteered to check with the FC soccer league about recruiting volunteers.

**Trunk or treat** – Erin Groome reported that all school request paper work has been submitted. Ms. Groome also presented the press release, sponsorship letter and youth group volunteer letter to the parks board for approval. The Parks Board felt everything looked great.

Ms. Groome also informed the committee that she was in contact with Roba Farms and that a bin of 3-4 pound pumpkins would cost \$195. Each bin holds about 225-250 pumpkins. The pumpkins would be used as a pumpkin decorating station. The committee felt only one bin would be needed. Ms. Groome will contact Roba Farms to schedule the order.

Volunteers for the event are still needed.

### **Community Gardens**

Eagle Scout, James Senholzi, sent in an update email to Erin Groome for the tool shed that will be built at the Community Gardens. Mr. Senholzi stated that he was currently fundraising for the project materials and hopes to be able to start the building of the shed by the end of September.

Michelle Dellavalle informed the group of a wonderful donation from, Joann Strauss, in the amount of \$130.00. The donation will sponsor 5 more garden boxes that will be maintained by Chauly and Danny Younger. The vegetable crops grown in these garden boxes will be donated to the local food

pantry, Bushkill Outreach. Mrs. Dellavalle suggested that the 5 new garden boxes be placed on the lower level next to the last group of boxes. Mike Dwyer asked Erin Groome to contact the Public Works Department and set up to have the lumber for the new boxes delivered by Friday, September 11, 2015. Mr. Dwyer also asked that Ms. Groome take a ride to the Community Gardens with the Public Works Foreman, Cory Lyon, to confirm the placement of the new garden boxes. These will be the last group of garden boxes to be built for the 2015 season.

Abigail Graham discussed with the Parks and Recreation Committee Board about how many boxes each renter would be allowed to rent for the upcoming 2016 growing season. Abigail Graham made a motion to allow up to three (3) garden boxes per family and three (3) per organization till after July 1, 2016, after which if garden boxes are not claimed, will allow one (1) additional garden box per resident or organization; Jeff Reichl seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Danny Younger asked if anyone knew what the plan was for the 10x10 demonstration garden that the Master Gardeners were going to build. Mr. Younger commented that he would like to see a colonial kitchen style garden be built. This type of garden could be built in the form of a U-shape. Mike Dwyer commented that he thought the demonstration garden was going to be placed on the southwest corner in the enclosure. Mr. Dwyer does not have any definite information on the demonstration garden yet. Mr. Younger suggested using a rock border instead of a wood border to utilize what is lying around the Community Gardens grounds. Michelle Dellavalle will look into what the thinking is on this project and report back to the committee.

Erin Groome was asked to contact the current garden renters to find out who would like to roll over to another year with their same garden beds from the 2015 growing season to the 2016 growing season. Ms. Groome will have a list ready for the October Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

### **Putek Park**

No change in status at this time.

### **Echo**

Jeff Reichl reported that the East Stroudsburg High School North students will be fundraising for local charities and projects. Mr. Reichl would like to have the money that is raised go toward the new playground that would be for Echo Lake Park.

Jenna Componovo gave a grant findings update. Many grants have open enrollment in the spring, while some were playground specific and some were not. The National Park Association has one grant open that is fitness specific. The DCNR has a grant that combines a 2 year timeline for conservation and development. There is a Kaboom Playground Equipment grant where they will help you through the process of working on a budget and the scope of planning for the work.

Jenna Componovo asked Mike Dwyer if it would be at all possible to be able to work a playground budget into the current budget for this year. Mike Dwyer felt it was possible to be able to budget this purchase. Mrs. Componovo was able to negotiate the cost due to working to bring two other playgrounds to the community at the same time (Great Bear Estates and Church of St. John's). There will be two playground structures for ages 2-12 years and 5-12 years; along with a trike set for Echo Lake Park. Mrs. Componovo was able to negotiate the cost by a 50% reduction with taking an over stock item also. The cost of the playground for Echo Lake Park would be \$54,000 installed by BYO Recreation. The price could be reduced another \$3,000 if the township were to lay the playground mulch and rubber boarder. A decision has to be made by the end of November in order to stay with the current price. BYO Recreation can store playground at their facility for the winter months. Mike

Dwyer's concern is that the playground location does not follow the master plan of the park. Jenna Componovo believes Jeff Reichl followed the master plan to the best of his ability when they met to layout the playground location.

Veterans Memorial – An update email was sent to Erin Groome from Eagle Scout, Joe Schuon. It explained that Mr. Schuon is waiting for the engraved granite that will go in the front of the memorial. Once the granite is ready, he expects the project to be completed within one weekend of receiving it. He expects the project to be completed before the snow falls. Mr. Schuon will keep us up to date with the project status.

**Frisbee golf** – Mike Dwyer informed the board that he spoke and met with Jordan Bunn, who helped design the Frisbee golf for Yetter's Park. Mr. Bunn felt the layout of the Frisbee golf course was not user friendly. Mr. Bunn will look over the course and submit his suggestions to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Jenna Componovo noted that if the board needs a second opinion, her husband is an avid player and can help where needed also.

### **Dog Park**

The Dog Park will have its ribbon cutting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 9:00am. Erin Groome is working with the Public Works Department to make sure the park is mowed and weed whacked for the event. Abigail Graham noted that local resident users of the park will be attending the opening. Awsom and Camp Papillion are expected to attend as well.

### **Litter and Beautification**

1,000 Feet of Street will be held on October 3, 2015 with a start time of 8:00am. Volunteers are still needed.

### **Announcements – None**

### **Individual Action Items**

Michelle Dellavalle – working on forming a Community Gardens sub-committee

Jenna Componovo – playground work for Echo Lake Park

Abigail Graham – Dog Park ribbon cutting

Jeff Reichl – school fundraising for Echo Lake Park playground

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 6:30pm. Abigail Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm; Michelle Dellavalle seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erin Groome  
Parks and Recreation Liaison