



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 1, 2016

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on February 1, 2016 and began at 6:35 at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Jenna Componovo presiding.

### **In attendance were:**

- Parks and Recreation Board Members: Jenna Componovo, Michelle Dellavalle, and Jamie Frailey
- Board of Supervisors: Annette Atkinson, and Mike Dwyer
- Members of the Public:
- MST Liaison: Christopher Rain

### **Correspondence - None**

**Minutes** - Michelle Dellavalle made a motion to accept the minutes from November 2, 2015, Jamie Frailey seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

### **Resica:**

Easter is early this year on March 27. The committee agreed there should be a backup plan in case of bad weather. Chris passed out Abigail's email with her thoughts on the Egg Hunt. Plan A is to have the Egg Hunt outside at Resica Elementary as usual. Plan B is to have the event indoors. There were 300 kids at last year's Hunt. Chris will write a letter to the East Stroudsburg School Board to request use of the gymnasium at Resica for the Hunt on March 19 as Plan B. Plan C is Whispering Pines. Chris will contact Bill Bonsor. Jenna suggested that there must be stations to complete activities to get eggs. Volunteers are also needed. There are 3 age groups with 4 volunteers per age group. Jenna estimated that we need 20 volunteers. Michelle agreed. The middle school softball team volunteered last year and did a great job. We also need someone to play the bunny. Chris pointed out in Abigail's email that one of the softball players was the bunny last year. Michelle said that some people complained last year because the event wasn't really an egg hunt. Jenna suggested the event be called an Easter Egg-stravaganza so as not to falsely advertise it as a hunt. Jenna requested that when Chris writes to the fire company to provide a truck that they only provide one truck because they brought more in previous years and it caused problems.

### **Community Gardens:**

The eagle scout (James Senholzi) garden shed isn't done yet. Annette provided the committee with a copy of the township's look ahead to show them the picture of the unfinished shed. Mike said that James has built the floor and frames for the walls. Mike wondered if the township should offer to help him. Michelle noted that the Boy Scouts have strict requirements for eagle scout projects. Chris mentioned that he can have volunteers, but he must coordinate them.

The ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for June 4. Michele stated that she wants to figure out how the plots will be laid out. She also mentioned that Chauly Younger won the Person of the Year and that the committee is pleased that the award was associated with the parks and generated publicity for the gardens. Chauly hopes to inspire other people to donate part of their own boxes to the Bushkill Outreach in the future.

## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 1, 2016

---

Last year there were 5 boxes dedicated to Bushkill Outreach. The Youngers also had 4 of their own and donated part of the produce from them to Bushkill as well. This year, Bushkill will have 3 boxes dedicated to them. Michelle hopes that Bushkill will send someone to work the boxes.

Michelle asked if we have a plan for the placement of the shade structure. Mike said it was planned for the far left side, but Danny Younger suggested putting it by the water supply. Annette agreed that would make the most sense. Michelle expressed concern for making sure that the placement of the shade structure did not shade the beds. Mike proposed that the shade structure could be outside the fence next to the parking area and driveway to avoid shading the beds. Michelle said that if the shade structure was inside the fence that the boxes next to it be “part-sun” boxes. Jenna suggested that these boxes be marketed as “part-sun.” Annette agreed that was a good idea because some gardeners like to plant part-sun plants. She also offered to take the shady boxes for herself. Jenna also expressed concern for the amount of rain runoff from the roof of the shade structure into surrounding beds. Michelle suggested making sure there were rain barrels to mitigate this.

Annette mentioned that we don’t have an as built and that a new plan needs to be done. Jenna questioned whether it was time to get an as built, or if the plan was going to change again. Mike confirmed that we needed an as built. Annette mentioned that the township was looking into possibly renting a drone to take a picture to use to plan out future beds. Mike mentioned taking a picture from the bucket truck. Jenna suggested asking a local realtor to borrow one of their drones since many realtors use them now. Michelle said she knows Christine and Tom Wilkins and that she would ask them about using their drone.

The ribbon cutting was tentatively scheduled for June 4. Annette said the press doesn’t always like to come out on weekends, but she could get Bob Vetter to cover it. Jenna proposed combining the ribbon cutting with Father’s Day, and Michelle thought this was a good idea. She suggested making it a farm-to-table program. Michelle suggested moving the ribbon cutting to June 18 instead. Annette asked Michelle to be the lead on the ribbon cutting and suggested that Chauly Younger also be involved. Michelle agreed. Chauly Younger and Bushkill Outreach will be invited. Jenna also suggested getting local restaurants involved as part of a cooking competition that day to enter their best fresh recipe. Michelle agreed with this idea and said she could get Tom X to come. Jenna also suggested inviting Mikuna Kitchen. Jenna said that there should be parameters for the competition, and that it should focus on grill local/cook local/eat local. She also suggested an award for the winner, perhaps a plaque or trophy. Chris will put together something to solicit local restaurants to participate in the ribbon cutting on June 18.

Michelle brought up schools having their own box for students to tend. Annette mentioned that Master Gardeners won’t work with minors because of the Sandusky laws. Michelle suggested asking ESU, NCC, PEEC, or Monroe County Environmental Education Center instead.

**Putek** - Nothing.

**Echo Lake:**

There is no update on the playground grant. Mike said that it would be awarded in the early spring. Mike also said that the Veterans Memorial was complete. Michelle suggested a dedication around Memorial Day. Jenna

## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 1, 2016

---

said that boy scouts, girl scouts, American Legion, and Monroe County color guard should be invited to the dedication.

Jenna asked when the playground would be installed, and Mike said it should be up in time for summer. Michelle suggested combining the Memorial and Playground dedication. It was decided to have the dedication on Saturday May 21. Jenna asked about the bathrooms, and benches. Mike said they just had be ordered and installed. The bathrooms will be cleaned out monthly. Jenna and Mike agreed that parking should be improved. Mike said it could be expanded down 209.

The tree lighting went well. Jenna liked the pathway through the parking lot. Mike suggested that we skip the cookies in 2016 and just have hot cocoa and candy canes. Annette mentioned handing out candles in 2016 and committee agreed. Annette suggested using real candles in glass jars, but the committee all agreed that flameless would be best. Holly Freese did the research about flameless candle options and it can be forwarded to the committee. Jenna also liked the light up bracelets. Mike said that the eagle scout did this as a fundraiser for the Veterans Memorial.

### **Dog Park:**

Jenna read the report that Abigail Graham sent to Chris on 1/25/16. She was asked by a resident when the dog park would be plowed. She told them that there was no winter service. Abigail also said that the flagpole an eagle scout is building at the dog park should be outside the fenced in areas. She also mentioned that the benches needed to be repaired or replaced for spring, and that bags should be ordered and delivered to Leroy, who fills the boxes. Mike said that the flagpole will be by the sign out by 209 so it can be lit.

### **Litter and Beautification:**

Mike and Annette said that 1000 Feet of Street is on April 16. They filled the committee in on the side path project along 209 from Price Chipper to Municipal Drive. The committee is excited about the project. Mike said the \$3 million grant was the largest the township has ever gone after. Jamie asked if Public Works would clean it in the winter, and Mike said yes. Michelle said we should get businesses to do more to clean litter by their businesses. Mike and Annette both mentioned other places that fine property owners for not cleaning litter or snow. Annette suggested trying to incentivize businesses, and Michelle suggested asking businesses to send volunteers to help clean. Jenna suggested an award for the business that does the most.

### **Announcements - None.**

### **Individual Action Items:**

Michelle Dellavalle will contact Christine and Tom Wilkins and ask them about using their drone.

Jenna Componovo will come up with three activities for the egg hunt.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday March 7, 2016 at 6:30pm. Jamie Frailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40; Michelle Dellavalle seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 1, 2016

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Respectfully Submitted By,

Christopher Rain

Parks and Recreation Liaison

When the meeting concluded, Jenna Componovo said that she would come up with three activities for the eggstravaganza.

After the meeting was over, Chris Rain checked the date for the eggstravaganza and saw that Whispering Pines was rented for the entire day on March 19, so it is not an option as a Plan C.