



Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – April 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on April 4, 2016 and began at 6:38 at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Jenna Componovo presiding.

In attendance were:

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

Correspondence - Email from Joe Schuon. He contacted Mr. Gerhartz of Post 2540 for the dedication. He wants to do a full dedication. Chris will follow up with Joe and Mr. Gerhartz to find out what they intend to do and what we need to get for them.

Minutes – Two changes were made to the February 1, 2016 minutes: the eagle scout building the shed was misstated and corrected to James Senholzi. “Shade structure” replaced the word “pavilion” in regard to the structure proposed for inside the fence at the Community Gardens to avoid confusion with the picnic pavilion.

Jenna Componovo made a motion to accept the minutes from February 1, 2016 with the two changes. Jaime Frailey seconded. Motion approved 3-0. Jenna Componovo made a motion to accept the minutes from March 7, 2016. Jaime Frailey seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

Resica:

The Eggstravaganza was a success and everyone seemed happy with it. Ms. Shick suggested that next year we have a handicapped area so children with handicaps can participate. Michelle will contact the special Olympics for ADA ideas. Jenna suggested the Bunny be there at the start rather than arrive since no one really saw that.

Jenna recommended giving away the extra eggs at the playground openings. We can bag them and hand them out at the end to reduce the mess. We will try to think of a place to donate extras next year.

Jaime reported that the Resica field gate is broken but has a volunteer to fix it. A business would like to clean up the back field in lieu of a donation to the softball team. Mike asked to be notified because we need their certificate of insurance. Jaime will get it from him. Mike said that we need a fence once the field is cleared.

Jaime asked if Resica field could get a new sign, but Mike said it belongs to little league. Jaime will look into it.

Community Gardens:

A draft version of the Garden Rules was provided at the meeting. Edits were made to the rules and the final version will be mailed out to all Garden plot users and committee members. A user agreement for all plot users to sign and return will also be sent out.

Mr. Younger asked about the status of the walking gardeners group. Michelle held a meeting but was waiting for spring to move forward and will start new meetings soon. He also asked if the Township can provide Kevin

Chris Rain 4/4/2016

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Cuzlowski from ESU a certificate of appreciation for the work he did building boxes at gardens to fulfill his community service for school. Danny will provide contact information.

Mr. Younger submitted a proposed new layout for the Community Gardens, which includes new roadways in the upper section to allow better road access to all plots. Mike expressed concerns about the internal ring road regarding parking and the possibility of automobile pollution. Michelle pointed out the roadways take up space that could be more plots. The Committee will take Mr. Younger's proposal under consideration for the future planning of the park.

Ms. Shick asked whether the old logging road could be turned into more parking. Mike said yes, but explained that the rules only allow us to disturb an acre at a time. Phase 2 will be to apply to disturb our second acre for additional improvements including additional parking, nature trail, etc.

Mr. Younger asked if it would be better to build all of the boxes now to have them available, rather than on demand. He suggested that the Grow a Row program could tend un-claimed boxes. He also asked if there were any plans to build additional handicap boxes, but there have been no requests for those so far in 2016. He also asked where the composting area was. Annette said it was not built yet. The Committee agreed it should be inside the fence to provide better access and reduce pest attraction. Mr. Younger also noted that some of the boxes were placed upside down and volunteered to flip them if he has time when he's up there.

Jenna raised the idea of having signage created for all parks to have rules and expectations for users posted including leaving the land better than you found it, etc. Mike recalled a sign being created for the Gardens in 2015, but no one knows where it is. Chris will look for the sign.

The ribbon cutting that was planned for June 4 and will include a grand opening of the playground has been moved to June 11 to accommodate Michelle's schedule.

Putek :

No report. Mr. Younger asked if people were using the park. Mike said yes, but it is meant to be open space.

Echo Lake:

The playground is installed and is hugely popular. We are waiting on the tricycle path to be built and signage that was ordered to be installed next week. We will not fence it in because it will interfere with kids playing. The fence will just be between the playground and parking lot.

We need more garbage cans around the playground. Someone left Easter egg shells all over the playground. Again, we need park guidelines posted. More seating would also be good for the parents. Maybe Bushkill Group can build us more. Michelle offered to donate logs from her property if they're needed. Jenna requested that all improvements be done in time for the May 22 dedication.

Jenna will compile information on the equipment and would like demographic information about the people the playground serves so that if anyone gets interviewed we have talking points.

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Jenna asked if we wanted to actually dedicate the playgrounds to a person, or get business sponsorship. The May and June events can be grand openings, possibly with dedication ceremonies later in the year.

Dog Park:

We are waiting for Dustin Diaz to do his flagpole and bench for his Eagle Scout project. He is waiting for BS board approval and then will fundraise. 2 of the grills ordered in March are for the Dog Park.

Litter and Beautification:

April 16 is 1000 Feet of Street. Karen has sent letters to businesses asking that they send out employees to clean up in front of their businesses. Jenna recommends a letter in the next newsletter about how to be a good citizen of the township.

Announcements – None.

Fill Committee Vacancies:

Everyone is continuing to reach out to people to fill vacancies on the committee.

Individual Action Items:

- Jaime will get Mike the certificate of insurance for the business that offered to clear the field at Resica.
- Jaime will look into the Little League sign at Resica and possibly getting a new one.
- Chris will try to find the metal sign made for the Community Gardens in 2015.
- Chris will follow up with Joe Schuon and Mr. Gerhartz about the memorial dedication.
- Chris/Mike/Committee will begin work on permanent signage for all of the parks with rules, etc.
- Jenna will compile information on the playgrounds as talking points for the playground openings.
- Jenna offered to draft an article for the newsletter about good citizenship.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday May 2, 2016 at 6:30pm. Jenna Comonovo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. Jaime Frailey seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christopher Rain

Parks and Recreation Liaison