



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – August 7, 2017

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on August 7, 2017 and began at 6:33pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Michelle Dellavalle presiding.

**In attendance were:** Committee Members: Danielle Cloward, Michelle Dellavalle, Dan Timpson. Public: Edward Morrissey, Rachele Morrissey. Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer. MST Liaison: Christopher Rain.

Danielle Cloward made a motion to accept the minutes from the July meeting. Dan Timpson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Correspondence:** An email was received from boy scout Robert Richard. He saw the Township is doing 1000 Feet of Street on 9/30 and wants to do a litter cleanup along Marshalls Creek Road. The Committee recommended that he do it with the Township on September 30 so that we can clean more of the road and provide a driver and flagger for Mr. Richard's group.

Michelle Dellavalle opened the floor to public comment. Eagle Scout candidate Edward Morrissey of Troop 87 proposes pullup bars in Echo Lake Park near the playground. He has a deadline of October 11 to complete the project and asked that MST provide a water tank for the cement. He provided a diagram of the proposed installation. The Committee approved the plan, but wants additional details including an overhead sketch and any approval forms from the Troop that may be necessary. Mr. Morrissey will provide any additional information by the September 5<sup>th</sup> parks committee meeting.

**Events:** 1000 Feet of Street – 9/30. Michelle is the coordinator for the event and will assist Chris Rain in the planning. Publicity and contact previous volunteers will begin by mid-August.

Trunk or Treat – 10/21. Jaime Frailey is the coordinator for the event. Chris will submit the facilities use form to Resica Elementary School by 8/8. We will double up on spin art and face painting stations. Michelle will look into a hot chocolate or popcorn truck for the event. Michelle will also look into pumpkin decorating kits (but not painting, as it is too messy).

Tree Lighting – 11/25. Danielle Cloward is the coordinator for the event. Planning will start in the next few weeks. Chris or Danielle will contact the high schools to get the program on their music department schedules again this year.

Community Day – 9/8/18. Mike recommended forming a subcommittee made up of representatives from each of the Township committees to help in the planning for this event. A fun name should be chosen soon. Michelle will provide a sample vendor application in September.

**Community Gardens:** Paul harvested about 40 pounds of honey from the hives. He suggested bottling and selling it as a fundraiser for the gardens. Bushkill Outreach food pantry is not closing after all. The Master Gardeners' Canning Demonstration is on 8/19 at 11am at the MST building. The Harvest Celebration in October will be for the gardeners, not the general public, and will include grilling and potluck.

The committee will look into finding someone to start a 4H club at the Gardens, possibly working with the school district, and boy and girl scouts. Michelle will organize a gardener meeting to discuss the 4H club and the 2018 growing year.

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Dan Timpson recommended corner braces and stakes to repair old raised beds. The Committee believes this may be a better solution than the cinderblocks previously discussed because the blocks will reduce the space between beds to only a few inches. Bracing the boxes may extend their life by a few years. However, all of the boxes will have to periodically be replaced.

Chris provided Dan with information from Annette about building compost bins at the Gardens

**Dog Park:** David Henon of University for Pets is scheduled to host two more programs in 2017 including a program on socialization and etiquette on 9/9 and a therapy dog practice test on 10/14. Both at 11am.

**Echo Lake:** The Committee recommended placing the memorial tree from the Growing Tree near the playground. Chris will reach out to Suzanne from the Growing Tree to discuss and will coordinate picking up the tree from Richard's Tree Farm and getting it planted. The Committee suggested having the plaque put on a bench instead of stand if the Growing Tree hasn't ordered it yet.

**Judy Putek:** No report.

**Resica:** No report.

**Litter and Beautification:** Michelle recommended that the Committee come up with several beautification projects around the Township.

**EMC Regional Parks:** The Bike Park is moving along. MST expects to pull out after 8/11 and turn the project over to Dellavalle Designs to complete. Jim Dellavalle submitted a proposal for \$11,135 to finish Phase 1, which the Supervisors of Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships will vote on this week.

The Mt. Nebo rehabilitation project is going well, thanks to the help of Alison Owczarczak from PEEC and Roger Spotts from the MCCD. Chris and Fallon Horan from the Planning Commission will be developing the nature signage and coordinating their installation in the fall and spring. The trails require clearing of fallen trees. A combination of scouts, Township personnel, and other volunteers may be used.

**Other Business:** The Committee presented several ideas for scout projects around the parks: Install picnic pavilions at the Gardens. Repair the picnic tables at the Gardens playground. Repair/replace the steps up to Resica playground and install a handrail. Add additional benches in the Dog Park enclosures. Add solar lighting at the Dog Park for the Ice Rink. Improve the fencing at the Gardens. Add a demonstration garden for children.

Other suggestions included adding walking paths and a dog run at the Gardens, which Mike said was part of Phase 2 of that project. Enough time has passed that the Township can clear more land at the Gardens. The Committee will discuss future plans for the Gardens at the 9/5 meeting.

**Announcements:** Barrett Township will open their Dog Park on 8/31 at 5pm. MST staff and supervisors were invited to attend. Michelle plans to attend as well.

### Individual Action Items:

- **Chris:** Coordinate litter cleanup group with Robert Richard
  - Coordinate Eagle project with Edward Morrissey

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- Coordinate planting memorial tree at Echo Lake with MST public works and the Growing Tree
- Coordinate with Mike to form a Community Day subcommittee
- **Edward Morrissey**: Provide Committee with additional information and any necessary forms.
- **Parks Committee**: Develop ideas for beautification projects.
- **Michelle**: Price pumpkin decorating kits.
  - Price possible hot cocoa or popcorn trucks for Trunk or Treat.
  - Coordinate a gardeners meeting to discuss 2018 and a 4H club.
- **Dan**: Look into repairing warping or broken plots at the Gardens
  - Coordinate building compost bins with Annette and Chris

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday August 7, 2017 at 6:30pm. Michelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Danielle seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christopher Rain

Parks and Recreation Liaison