



Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – June 14, 2021

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on June 14, 2021 and began at 6:34pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Laura Massaro presiding.

In attendance were: Committee Members: Belinda Basnight, Jaime Frailey (by phone), Javon Hilaire, Laura Massaro. Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson. MST Liaison: Christopher Rain.

Laura Massaro made a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Belinda Basnight seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: None.

Events: 1000 Feet of Street officially ended on 5/31, but volunteers continue to clean up litter on their own time, and others are encouraged to participate. As of 5/31, 130 volunteers had cleaned up over 200 bags of litter along 33 miles of road (or 66 miles of roadside).

The Committee tentatively picked Saturday 8/28 for a combination volunteer fair and touch a truck event to be held at Echo Lake Park. Chris Rain will follow up with the committee by email to iron out details before reaching out to local volunteer groups who may wish to attend. Belinda Basnight offered to reach out to PennSERVE, an organization that helps to put together volunteer events.

Community Gardens: Vicky Staples reported by email that the bees were healthy when she checked them on 6/13. She also did some minor repair work and weed whacking at the hives that day. She will do a full hive check on 6/15 and additional repair work to the electric fence. Jay Miranda has built several of the replacement plots and will continue.

Dog Park: A new trash can was purchased to replace one that was damaged. Chris Rain gave the can to public works to install. The next free dog training is on 7/10.

Echo Lake: The Master Gardeners met at the Community Center on 6/10 and will meet again on 6/18 regarding installation of plants at the rain gardens around the Community Center. Chris Rain is putting together an application for a grant from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and The Giant Company that will include trail rehabilitation, purchase of trash cans, and funding to help install the rain gardens. The application is due 6/30.

Public Works and the Boy Scouts reinstalled the flagpole and veterans memorial in front of the Community Center and had a brief rededication ceremony on 6/14. They will have a more formal rededication on Veterans Day. The Pocono Arts Council installed a WWII photo exhibit in the Community Center lobby and the Library put together a flag and American history book display to complement the exhibit. The exhibit will be up until 7/31.

The Library of the Smithfields is holding three nature programs in Echo Lake Park: Nature Walk on 6/23, Painting in the Park on 6/24, and Beekeeping on 7/22. Anyone interested should call 570-223-1881 to register.

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Judy Putek: Chris met with Jim Vogt of the Monroe County Master Watershed Stewards at the park regarding their installation of the Live Stake Nursery. The Stewards will work on a proposed layout of the nursery over the summer and coordinate with the township on the installation, which will take place in the fall.

Resica: Public Works will begin installing new grills at the pavilion on 6/15. Jaime Frailey reported a garbage dump near the baseball field. Chris Rain will inform the school so it can be cleaned up.

Litter and Beautification: The 209 planters were planted and placed before Memorial Day weekend.

EMC Regional Parks: Dirtsculpt finished the restoration of the bike pump track. The track is open for the season and is in great shape. The Townships will discuss future improvements moving forward. Mike Dwyer reported that Smithfield Supervisor Robert Lovenheim would like to install more educational material at Mt. Nebo Park. Chris Rain will follow up with him and will visit the park to inspect the trail conditions.

Announcements: There is a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Community Center on 6/16. Annette Atkinson reported that 32 of the 40 slots were already filled as of 6/14.

Chris Rain reported that resident Skyler Rivaire expressed interested in filling the vacancy on the committee. No other candidates have come forward so far. Chris Rain will follow up with Ms. Rivaire.

Individual Action Items:

- **Chris Rain:** Follow up with committee re: details for the Volunteer Fair/Touch a Truck event.
- **All:** Finalize the details for the event before the July meeting.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday July 12, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Jaime Frailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christopher Rain
Parks and Recreation Liaison