



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – July 12, 2021

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on July 12, 2021 and began at 6:35pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Laura Massaro presiding.

**In attendance were:** Committee Members: Javon Hilaire, Laura Massaro. Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson. MST Liaison: Christopher Rain.

The Committee began with a moment of silence for committee member Belinda Basnight who passed away on July 1, 2021.

Javon Hilaire made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting. Laura Massaro seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Events:** Tai Chi started on Saturday July 10 with 25 people in attendance. The program is most Saturday mornings from 10:15 to 11:30 at the Community Center and is free to attend. The library has a number of upcoming events at Echo Lake Park. The township is helping them to market them to increase turnout.

The date of the Volunteer Fair and Touch a Truck event was changed from 8/28 to 9/18 due to a scheduling conflict at the park. The rain date is 9/19. The event will run from 12pm to 4pm. The committee approved the details provided. Chris Rain will reach out to organizations to provide vehicles for Touch a Truck and to sign up as vendors starting this week.

**Community Gardens:** Vicky Staples reported by email that the bees were healthy when she checked them on 7/8. She will do routine treatments for mites by the end of July and put out a feeder. Jay Miranda has rebuilt around a dozen plots that were in need of repair. There was no report from the master gardeners. Chris Rain will ask Vicky and Carolyn Jones about whether they are ready to start doing public demonstrations again.

**Dog Park:** David Henon had to cancel the 7/10 dog training. The next dog training is on 9/18.

**Echo Lake:** Chris Rain submitted the grant proposal for the Healing the Planet Grant from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Grants will be awarded in early August.

**Judy Putek:** Jim Vogt and the watershed stewards will do a site visit to plan the layout of the nursery before the end of the summer and will follow up with Chris Rain afterward to work out details.

**Resica:** No report.

**Litter and Beautification:** The committee discussed increasing the number of planters on 209 in several locations. Chris Rain will look into options to purchase 6-10 more. The township will consider providing the planters to businesses, who would be responsible for their upkeep. Other suggestions were to place them in areas that the township could manage the planters, such as Echo Lake Park and around the Park & Ride.

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**EMC Regional Parks:** The Bike Park is seeing increased use since the rehabilitation. Visitors have posted photos and videos on Facebook and committee members have observed cars at the park while driving by. No update on Mt. Nebo Park.

**Announcements:** There are currently two vacancies on the parks committee. Annette Atkinson has been in touch with Maureen Krinsky who has expressed interest in joining. Chris Rain reached out to Skyler Rivaire who previously expressed interest, but has not heard back. He will reach out again and will begin to advertise if Ms. Rivaire decides not to join.

**Individual Action Items:**

- **Chris Rain:** Contact EMS and vendors for the Fair/TAT.
  - Follow up with Skyler Rivaire, re: joining the committee.
  - Follow up with Jim Vogt, re: tree nursery.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on August 9, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Javon Hilaire made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion approved 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Christopher Rain  
Parks and Recreation Liaison