

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) MINUTES

5 October 2015

1. Attendance

PRB Members Present: Sue Ziegler (Chairperson), Doug Litzenberger (Vice Chairperson), Frank Hollenbach (Recording Secretary), Bill Ryker (arrived later in meeting). Not present: Megan Fox.

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager)

2. Call to Order - Chairperson Ziegler called the meeting to order.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Minutes

Mr. Hollenbach had prepared minutes for the 9/8/15 meeting. Some minor typos were noted for correction. Ms. Ziegler motioned to approve the 8/10 minutes. Mr. Litzenberger seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

5. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown discussed items pertaining to the park. In the rain garden, holes in the PVC overflow pipe were patched by the road crew. Mr. Brown reported he viewed the rain garden after a recent rain. Mr. Brown will check with Wynn Associates as to why the forebay closest to Peppermint Road retains water.

There was discussion on the offer of a donor for a composting toilet. A resident had offered to donate the composting toilet to the PRB. It is an older model and would require a structure to house it within. The resident had contacted Bucks County to understand any requirements and the County rep contacted Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown will speak with the County rep to hold off on any further work as the PRB is reviewing the offer.

Mr. Brown reported on a question of the orange fence and whether that was purchased. Steve Balough, B. Wynn Associates, replied that the fence price was for material and labor, so the PRB did not purchase the fence.

6. Business

A. Peppermint Park Maintenance

Ms. Zeigler mentioned some items. The watering of recently planted trees was done. The last position of the PRB was that the parking lot and paved path would not be plowed in winter for at least this first winter. The liquid deer fencing (to dissuade deer brows on recent plantings) was approved through next spring at last meeting. Notice was provided to neighbors in the immediate vicinity. The PRB booth at Community Day was visited by 46 people that were actively engaged in discussions about Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Hollenbach reported on the draft Parks & Recreation maintenance plan. He read the outline topics that had been discussed in previous PRB meetings. He added that the EAC and PRB were working together on a forest regeneration plan. He provided a set of color coded maps of the park (overall and close-up of construction area) that depicted various types of maintenance areas including: 1) mowed grass (every two weeks in season), 2) meadow mowed (annually in spring), 3) hay lease (cut by farmer via lease agreement), 4) woodlot, 5) proposed forest regeneration project (phase A), and 6) paved surface (parking lot and paved path). There was discussion on the different areas and proposed

maintenance. Some items were noted including: a volunteer cuts the mowed grass (item #1) approximately every 10 days in season and it takes approximately 75 minutes using the volunteer John Deere mower, PRB would like to pursue having the road crew cut the meadow grass (item #2) as they did prior to the tree planting along Peppermint Road and Rowland property line. The suggestion was made to table the topic and coordinate with 3 parties: the volunteer grass mower, the hay lease farmer, and the road crew.

There was discussion about obtaining a recycle barrel for the park. Plan would be to paint green and put a visible recycle logo on the side. Ms. Ziegler had mentioned she has a barrel that could be used for that purpose.

The garbage was removed from the trash can. Plan is for the township to check periodically (every two weeks or so) and remove.

Suggestion made by Township police to post Park Hours in visible spot(s) along the entrance. Mr. Litzenberger took the task to post the Park Hours as a temporary measure.

#### B. Tree Acquisition and work days

Mr. Litzenberger mentioned that he and Mr. Hollenbach had met with Chris Cummings of Springfield Tree. Discussions were for 4 October Glory red maples by the parking lot, 3 pin oaks by the rain garden corner, 3 winter king hawthorns (as a donation) by the rain garden corner, and augering of holes for evergreens at rate of \$5/hole for approx. 40 holes. The price quote for the services was discussed. Mr. Hollenbach motioned that the PRB approve the work with a caveat on coordinating the auger hole locations (deciduous tree locations were already staked). Mr. Litzenberger seconded. Motion carried unopposed. Mr. Litzenberger will coordinate with Chris Cummings to meet and discuss hole locations.

There was discussion that the Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) has arranged for a volunteer group to help with items at the park. Ms. Ziegler will coordinate with Mr. Boyd who is leading the TLC group. The workday is planned for Sunday afternoon, 10/11. Volunteer activities will be removal of silt socks and wood chips to the woodlot path area, and removal of stones/rocks from the mowed path.

Mr. Zack Boyd reported on his Eagle Scout project status. He has an offer from Mr. Schultz as a tree service to chip the down spruce trees along Peppermint Road. Mr. Boyd also reported that his project application has been formally approved by the Boy Scout organization. He mentioned he is starting to plan a workday to remove invasive species in the woodlot as his project proposal had indicated.

There was discussion about PRB workdays. PRB will have a workday on Saturday, 10/17 to retrieve additional evergreens from the Cochrane property. Depending on the number acquired, the remainder of the evergreens will be ordered from Mr. Dimmick. There will be another workday on Saturday, 10/24 to plant the evergreens and the additional evergreens purchased from Mr. Dimmick. The plan is to have the holes augered by this time so that trees can be planted directly into the holes.

Mention was made that the EAC is planning a workday on the Township property on 10/10. The EAC is also sponsoring a public Tire recycling event on Saturday 10/17. Mr. Hollenbach will contact Dogwood Acres Nursery about the four donated dogwood trees to arrange transport. Mr. Brown offered that he could coordinate with the road crew for a simple pickup / delivery to the township building.

#### C. Rail Trail

Mr. Hollenbach reported on the 9/29 Quakertown Trails Steering Committee in the Springfield Township building. Ms. Bedics and Mr. Hollenbach attended along with representatives from Richland, Milford, and Bucks County. There was no news from Bucks County regarding a Rail Trail design/engineering contract award. Mr. Hollenbach presented a PowerPoint brief with photos of two recent hikes on the rail easement that were made in July.

Mr. Hollenbach discussed the idea of looking at properties as an initial concept of providing a trailhead in Springfield Township. Other municipalities have established trailheads and reported benefits of public health and increased economic activity.

#### D. Other

There was discussion of a formal sign for the entrance at Peppermint Park. The PRB has concepts with quotes from two different vendors.

There was discussion on establishing a kiosk in the park. There were examples cited including the kiosk at Southern Lehigh Park on Landis Avenue, and a booklet for state approved materials.

Mr. Hollenbach read the changes to the park rules that had been discussed at the 9/10 PRB meeting. Mr. Hollenbach motioned that the 9/10 set of park rules be approved. Ms. Ziegler seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

There was additional discussion that there was a lot of interest in parks and recreation at Community Day. The PRB recorded that 46 people stopped at the booth and were actively engaged in discussions about the parks and trails. One gentleman offered some trees that could be planted. Mr. Hollenbach will follow up.

There was discussion of possible programs that might be planned for the park in the future including a possible "Art in the Park" event.

#### 7. Public Comment

Mr. Jay Fuggitti asked the question "How would the rules be enforced?" There was discussion that signage needed to be added to indicate park hours.

#### 8. PRB Comment

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that when he was at the park recently, he saw a mother and son walking the paved trail; a family of four with the kids riding a bike and being pushed in a stroller; and a husband and wife walking the mowed grass trail. The man and woman asked about more communication that the park exists and can be used by the public.

Mr. Ryker asked if the township website could post the PRB meetings so that the public can see the work being done and provide awareness for the community.

Ms. Ziegler mentioned a plan to have a ribbon cutting / dedication at some time in the spring.

Mr. Brown suggested that the PRB consider adding a "bark park" like some other municipalities.

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that there will be a DCNR Grant Writing workshop on 11/17 in Doylestown. He will forward the email announcement to the PRB.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Litzenberger motioned to adjourn. Mr. Ryker seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Frank Hellenbach*

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 14 December 2015

Minutes Approved: Monday, 14 December 2015 TBD