

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) MINUTES

10 August 2015

1. Attendance

PRB Members Present: Sue Ziegler (Chairperson), Doug Litzenberger (Vice Chairperson), Bill Ryker, Megan Fox, Frank Hollenbach (Recording Secretary).

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager), Karen Bedics (Supervisor)

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Minutes

Mr. Hollenbach had prepared minutes for the 7/13/15 meeting. Mr. Litzenberger motioned to approve the 7/13 minutes. Mr. Ryker seconded. Motion passed unopposed. Mr. Hollenbach is now forwarding approved minutes to Mr. Brown with electronic signature.

5. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown discussed items pertaining to the park. The sediment trap was converted. This completes Barwis construction with the exception of any punchlist items. The Rain Garden needs to be planted – prior to removing Barwis from the NPDES permit. There is a scheduled Saturday, 8/29 planting by the EAC. There was discussion over water level in the rain garden and the retention of water in the forebay. Mr. Reimann, EAC mentioned that the plant list previously approved by the PRB would need to be modified because of the water.

Mr. Brown reported that Springfield Police will be using the paved path for a fitness test for candidate police officers. The 0.2 mile paved path is long enough for the test.

6. Business

Ms. Zeigler raised the point that the September meeting would be 9/14, but she and Mr. Litzenberger are unable to make that date. The meeting will be shifted to Tuesday, 9/8. The October meeting will fall on Columbus Day. This meeting will be shifted to Monday, 10/5. Suggestion was made to meet the first Monday of the month in October to avoid conflict with Columbus Day.

A. 2016 Budget

Mr. Litzenberger presented an estimated budget for 2016. Additional items considered include benches, signage, tables, trash cans, recycling bin, Programs, additional amenities. Establish schemes and colors for Parks and Recreation, and for the Park.

There was discussion of a website to provide information and the PRB minutes. Mr. Brown reiterated preference to host under the township website.

Opportunity to understand bench donor program. Possibly promote at Springfield Community Day.

Discussion on the Rail Trail. Expenses for 2016 will include legal expenses (prorated portion shared with Richland Township), and a possible Trail Head. Discussion on Open Space funding and relation between PRB, BoS, and Open Space Committee.

Discussion of possible trail heads in Springfield Township. Mr. Hollenbach provided a minimum of four different possible locations.

Discussion of Zion Hill Church. A basketball hoop is a candidate budget item. Ms. Bedics mentioned that Ms. Kay Moats at the church is interested. Estimated cost is \$1,250.

Total estimated 2016 budget is ~\$70K. This does not include any land or easement acquisitions.

#### B. Community Day

Ms. Fox presented some ideas for Community Day, 9/26. There was discussion of a trifold and a brochure. Mr. Hollenbach suggested aligning the messaging with the PRB goals – Parks, Trails, Programs, Fiscal responsibility.

#### C. Park Rules

Mr. Hollenbach presented the updated park rules from the 8/10 meeting. This was followed by discussion. Three items were annotated/changed: #6 added the word possession, #14 added “Do not” to the front, and #5 added trapping. Mr. Ryker motioned to accept the Park Rules as annotated. Ms Fox seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

#### D. Mowing Update

There was discussion of the Hay Lease and the extent of mowing by the farmer. Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that the farmer will mow to the mowed path along the Rowland Lane properties. Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that there was review of the PRB minutes and the mowed path was indicated at 100 ft, the evergreen plantings were to be at 25ft and 35ft respectively. There was proposal that the meadow between 35 and 100 ft be mowed annually or every other year, but the proposal was not acted upon. There was proposal for the portion between the property line and the evergreens be allowed to return to wild / natural, but the proposal was not acted upon. There was discussion of mowing an apron of ~8ft around the paved path and letting the grass inside the paved loop be treated as a meadow and mowed annually. There was discussion that the construction drawings contain a note that the grass will be mowed prior to planting trees. Mr. Brown will check with Barwis and advise the PRB. There was discussion about having a work day on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend for planting shrubs and trees that have been stored in the woodlot.

#### E. Rail Trail

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that he and Mr. Reimann had hiked a portion of the trail on 7/19. The hike went from the Springfield Township line behind Bubba’s to within sight of the Springfield Street bridge. The section from Bubba’s to Mine Road is mainly wooded with slight cuts. From Mine Road to the powerlines, the tracks are 3 rails wide. From the powerlines to the Springfield St. bridge, the rails go into a cut and pass by the old train station on Route 309. Closer to the bridge, water is retained and the tracks are swampy.

#### F. Other

Ms. Fox reported on two quotes from a vendor. Discussion on size, colors, layout, and wording. Mr. Brown will forward grant wording to Ms. Fox. Ms. Fox will continue to work with the vendor on a concept / mockup.

Mr. Brown read from the Zoning Ordinance concerning signs. A number of different items were mentioned regarding setbacks required.

A vote was taken for a park name. Peppermint Park was voted for by Ms. Zeigler, Ms. Fox, Mr. Ryker, Mr. Litzenberger. Mr. Hollenbach voted for Peppermint Valley Park citing the name on the 2002 survey.

#### 7. Public Comment

Mr. Reimann thanked the PRB for allowing the public to participate throughout the meeting.  
Ms. Bedics thanked the PRB on behalf of the BoS.

#### 7. PRB Comment

There was discussion about a grand opening / dedication for the park. PRB is looking at the spring timeframe and will propose dates / times to the BoS in the future.

There was discussion about use of a small number of cedar trees along the Zeigler property line to delineate the property line in the field.

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that he was contacted about a volunteer group of about 20 people looking to help with the park. The group is from a local church and the timeframe discussed was late sept / oct.

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned he has spoke with a Minsi Trail master gardener who was interested in helping to establish a wildflower garden in the park.

#### 8. Adjournment

Mr. Litzenberger motioned to adjourn. Ms. Fox seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Frank Hollenbach*

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 8 September 2015

Minutes Approved: TBD Monday, 8 September 2015

