

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) MINUTES

8 September 2015

1. Attendance

PRB Members Present: Sue Ziegler (Chairperson), Doug Litzenberger (Vice Chairperson), Bill Ryker, Frank Hollenbach (Recording Secretary). 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 8/10/15 meeting. Mr. Litzenberger motioned to approve the 8/10 minutes. Mr. Ryker seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

5. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown discussed items pertaining to the park. Mr. Brown forwarded information that the asphalt that appears to have issues is the correct formula and should harden as the weather cools. He forwarded the concern that the forebay retains water.

No new status on the Rail Trail SEPTA negotiations or Design contract. The public can contact the county commissioners if they would like to express opinion on the project.

6. Recent Work Days

Mr. Litzenberger reported on a number of recent work days at the park.

8/15 work day - The Rain Garden planting was completed except for seeds – which are waiting for rain and cool weather. Additional holes were drilled in the PVC spill pipe. Archewild seemed pleased with the plantings.

8/29 work day - The silt socks were moved with donated equipment from Mr. Nilsen. The socks have become rooted into the vegetation, so are not easy to pick up and move.

9/5 work day – The shrubs and cedars from the woodlot were planted. Around 10 volunteers planted about 40 shrubs and 8 cedars. Two buffer height cedars were left in the woodlot and about 15 plants were put into the water retained in the forebay.

Mr. Litzenberger mentioned he plans to meet with Chris Cummins of Springtown Tree Farm at the park on Thursday, 9/10 to discuss locations and varieties of trees including: winter king hawthorne, pin oak, and October glory maple.

7. Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Zack Boyd presented an update on his project. For wood chips, he was researching options for chipping.

- Hickory High would have an approximate \$250 charge associated with chipping. There would first be a day of chain saw work to reduce the tree piles along the road.
- Mr. Gracenberg offered free wood chips

- Mr. Boyd is meeting with Mr. Schultz on Thursday

Mr. Boyd mentioned he is meeting with Mr. Krause from the Boy Scout council to review his eagle project proposal on Saturday.

There was discussion about possibility of recognizing donors. Mr. Brown offered that the township can recognize charitable donations/work via a sign or provide letters for tax purposes. Mr. Boyd will notify the PRB of any future event plans.

## 8. Business

### A. Community Day

Unfortunately Ms. Fox was sick and unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Fox has been working on a tri-fold with park information and photos. There was discussion about having the laminated Rail Trail map at the booth. Mr. Ryker mentioned he would work on a video of the park so that it could run on a laptop as an example of what can be seen.

Discussion turned to the park sign. There was discussion about adding park hours to the sign. Ms. Zeigler mentioned she would like addition of DCED added to the required wording for the grant. Mr. Hollenbach suggested looking at local park signs to get a better idea of materials, visibility and preferences. He will provide a list of local sign locations (e.g., Keller Park in Richland, SRT Reading Drive in Upper Saucon). There was discussion over things to consider such as maintenance, size, appearance, visibility, and information.

Mr. Brown discussed sign requirements and will provide an opinion of the sign ordinance. The site triangle should not be impinged (for vehicles exiting the park).

### B. Park Rules

Mr. Hollenbach presented the updated park rules from the last meeting and requested a few changes to be made. The 2003 agreement when the Park land was purchased indicated not allowing snowmobiles and ATVs. Suggestion was made to add snowmobiles to item #5. Add wording at bottom of rules for emergencies call 9-1-1 and Township number for non-emergencies. Suggestion was made to change item #1 to dawn to dusk for park hours. Suggestion was made to add to item #9 that official vehicles are Township, Municipal and PRB authorized. Item #13 changed to Individuals should not enter, exit, or establish access to the park through neighboring properties.

### C. Park Maintenance

There was discussion on watering the newly planted shrubs/cedars and the Rain Garden. Hans Reiman, EAC will make sure the EAC will provide watering if needed in the next week or so.

There was discussion on deer fencing and applying liquid deer fencing. The liquid is a temporary pre-caution until heavy frost. The woody shrubs would be treated (approximately monthly) until next spring for the emerging buds. Mr. Reiman estimated it would require about 2-3 gallons of concentrate to last through next spring. There was a suggestion to notify the neighboring properties of the intent to use the liquid deer fencing. Ms. Zeigler reported she had already contacted Mr. Fuggitti. Mr. Ryker will contact the Rice, Brader, and Morris residences.

There was discussion about a maintenance plan. Mr. Hollenbach will continue the work on the plan and add markups of portions of the park with suggested maintenance (e.g., bi-weekly mow within 8 feet of the paved path, annual spring mowing of the meadow inside the paved path, hay lease mowing). Park will not be maintained / plowed in the winter.

### D. Rail Trail Update

Mr. Hollenbach reported that he had raised the question of whether horses were permitted on the Saucon Rail Trail (SRT). After research and communication with the SRT Oversight Committee, the SRT does not allow horses, and the SRT will update their rules to clarify that horses are not allowed on the SRT.

On 9/29, the PA Highlands Trail Network will meet at 7PM in the Springfield Township building.

On 9/13, St. Lukes health network has an event at Lake Nockamixon.

#### E. Other

Mr. Hollenbach raised the question of the Barwis invoice about whether the orange fencing was purchased or just provided temporarily. It was not clear from the invoice. Mr. Brown will check with Barwis regarding the invoice and whether the fencing was purchased.

#### 9. Public Comment

Mr. Reimann asked the PRB about the philosophy for maintaining the park. He raised this question – “Is children’s use of the park compatible with herbicide use by farming?” Mr. Brown offered the herbicide is a PA approved herbicide that has been used for many years. The PRB has the option to post announcement that herbicides will be applied at a future date to inform the public. The Hay Lease indicates the farmer will provide advance notice to the Township of intent to apply herbicide.

#### 10. PRB Comment

Mr. Litzenberger mentioned that there was a hornet’s nest at the park in the shrubs near the woodlot. There was discussion about using fence around the shrubs to alert the public.

Mr. Hollenbach noted that Ms. Zeigler was awarded a grant from the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,625 for park and trail maintenance. The PRB thanked Ms. Zeigler.

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that a local nursery agreed to donate dogwood trees. Mr. Brown will arrange with Rich Pursell, township road-master, to dig out the arborvitaes in prep for the EAC work day on 10/10.

EAC will have a work day on 10/10 at the township building property.

EAC is sponsoring tire recycling on 10/17.

Mr. Hollenbach suggested a monthly PRB report on budget like items such as donations and volunteer hours.

There was discussion on providing recognition of volunteers or donations. Specifically, the donations of the plastic pots for moving trees/shrubs and 55 gallon rain barrel for watering.

#### 11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Frank Hollenbach*

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 5 October 2015

Minutes Approved: Monday, 5 October 2015 TBD