

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Board Meeting
December 1, 2011**

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Board was held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruth Scadding at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were: Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore, Phyllis Marron, Heidi Karpa, Erich Meyer and Vicki Wooters.

Others present were:

Frank Vattilano, Director of Recreation
Senya Isayeff, Township Supervisor
Thom Clapper, Township Supervisor
Ben Rohrbeck, Historical Commission
Sue Ciorletti, Historical Commission
Adam Knox, Conservancy Board
Various residents

A. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman asked Ruth Kiefer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence to remember our Armed Forces.

The Chairman asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting were approved as corrected.

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting were approved as corrected.

The Chairman noted that a correction was made to the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting.

C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ruth received a request from Nancy Scheiderman, Township Administrative Assistant, who is preparing the 2012 schedule of Township ABC meetings and asked if the Park Board will have the Tuesday workshops. Ruth would like to change the workshop to an evening so more residents have the opportunity to attend. Vicki moved to change the workshop meeting to the third Thursday at 7:00 pm as needed. Phyllis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. STAFF REPORTS

1. Frank's report follows:

a. Programs – The fall programs will conclude this month.

The exercise group, Ageless Exercise, from Hershey's Mill met with Frank to discuss using the Township building. They will hold the class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and will have about 18-20 participants. They agreed to pay 15% of their total gross. Frank is processing the necessary paperwork that he does for all instructors.

The Neighbor to Neighbor day was successful. Thom Clapper along with 60 other volunteers of all ages participated and filled 380 leaf bags. Frank would like to have more properties next year.

The trip to New York this Saturday, December 3, 2011, has two 54-passenger buses going. Frank had 20 people on the wait list and couldn't call any of them because, for the first time, no one cancelled.

The Boot Camp instructor, Colleen, has paid the fee of \$150 for November. She discussed with Frank the possibility of getting canvas side wall covers for one of the pavilions to be used during inclement weather. Frank reported that she is getting information on this. Vicki mentioned that the price Colleen has so far is \$150 per panel. Vicki isn't sure what size a panel is. Vicki feels this could also be made available to others who rent the pavilion for a surcharge.

Frank reported that the flags on the website for use of fields in the park are now broken down by field instead of closing all the fields in the park.

2. Mark Miller, Public Works – No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Goals and objectives for 2012 were reviewed. Ruth reviewed the suggestions from Board members. Senya verified that, for the 2012 Budget, the Board of Supervisors has moved the responsibility for Park Maintenance, which is over \$600,000, to the Park Board. Vicki pointed out that in the past the Recreation Programs had to be self-sustaining and the Board accomplished that goal. For 2011, Frank's compensation was added to the Park Board Budget and now for 2012 it will include public works salaries and maintenance of the parks. Senya commented that the Park Board is supposed to give an annual report to the Board of Supervisors about programs and the state of the parks.

The Board discussed accomplishments which were:

- * A successful Community Day, Farmers Market and Harvest Festival
- * A Facebook page was started. Board will continue to improve communications.
- * The bridge in Applebrook was dedicated
- * A trail in the new forest area in Applebrook was installed

Some long-term goals that were discussed:

- Signs in ballfields
- Food concession vendors
- Restroom at Applebrook
- Amphitheater
- On-line payments
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2. Banning Smoking - Ruth asked Vicki if she had any information about other parks that have banned smoking. Vicki suggested the idea but has done no research at this point, but she will start it. Adam Knox mentioned that, according to the American Non-smoker Association, West Goshen has a smoke free park.

3. Applebrook Restroom – Mark Miller did some research on models and pricing for a restroom in Applebrook. All were very costly.

Public Comment: Mr. Jones uses the park regularly and doesn't understand why the Board feels this has to be done. It is an expensive convenience and there are 2 restrooms in East Goshen Park.

Phyllis doesn't feel this should be kept as a goal. The board agreed to take this off as a goal.

4. Traffic Light at Paoli Pike & Line Road – Ruth read a report provided by Rick Smith, Township Manager. It stated that originally Pulte gave the township \$110,000 for the light. \$43,000 was spent for plans from PennDot. The remaining \$67,000 was returned to Pulte because Toll Brothers paid all of the costs for the traffic light at this intersection.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Assignment of Liaisons – This was tabled until the January 2012 meeting.

Public Comment: Mr. Jones asked what is the purpose of liaisons. Ruth explained that they provide communication between the various boards. It is a valuable service to the boards.

2. Expenses – Vicki commented that there was no expense report this month. Ruth explained that they stopped it because the reports show payments made and don't require approval from the board. However, the board will continue to receive monthly Expenditure and Revenue reports.

G. ANY OTHER MATTER

1. Ruth reported that on Saturday November 19, 2011, members of the Park Board and Planning Commission assisted the Conservancy Board in planting 20 dogwood trees at the forested area in Applebrook Park. Again she stressed that all of the Township Boards need volunteers. Residents should sign up on the Website for Constant Contact so they know what projects need volunteers.

H. LIASION REPORTS

1. Conservancy Board – Adam reported that they applied for a grant from PECO to remove invasives and replant with native species in Applebrook.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Board received a thank you from Christopher Moore for the proclamation the Board presented to him for his scout project. Ruth presented it to him at his Eagle Scout ceremony. Ruth feels the amount of work, planning and fund raising deserves recognition of the scout.

J. DATES OF IMPORTANCE

No discussion

K. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Some residents came to the meeting to see if anything further was going on with the YMCA. Ruth made an apology to the YMCA. She stated that the Y met with the Park Board to discuss ways to make things better for the residents. She feels very badly about what the Y had to endure because of incorrect information that was given out. Ruth and the board members thanked the residents for attending the meeting tonight.

2. Senya Isayeff asked to speak as a resident. He thanked the board members for the volunteer time they give to the township and pointed out that they give much more than just the hours at a meeting. He spoke about the responsibility of board members which has to operate as one – the prevailing vote is what all members of the board should accept or step aside and become a resident.

The Code Book is the law of the township. Every ten years a Comprehensive Plan is done for the township. The last was done in 2005. The Comp Plan is very clear about the responsibilities and goals of the Park Board. There are many users of the park from other areas, who need to be considered customers and potential residents.

Regarding the 2012 budget, the Board of Supervisors knows that every year that they start out with a projected deficit they have to be more creative in finding revenues. That's why they set up the TAG Committee, who spent 6 months looking at the township operations. Their report had 41 ideas to cut costs and maximize efficiencies. There were 8 specific to the Park Board. One item was to work with the YMCA. He feels this failed because the Board failed to work as one. He appreciates Ruth's apology to the YMCA, however, the article in the local newspaper did a lot of damage. The Y will not be back which is unfortunate because there are 20,000 members that come to East Goshen to use the Y's facility. The Board of Supervisors needs to have confidence in their advisory boards.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board went into Executive Session at 9:05 pm. Executive Session ended at 9:42 pm. **The next meeting will be a workshop on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 10:00 am. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 5, 2012.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary