

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
April 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Christine Taraborelli at 7:00 pm.

Commission members present were:

Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore
Deborah Snyder
Ed Coyle
Eric Tobin
Dan Leicht
Joe Zulli
Kishor Thakarar

Others present were:

Jason Lang, Director of Recreation
Carmen Battavio, Supervisor
Erich Meyer, Conservancy Board

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Christine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christine asked for a moment of silence to remember our military, police & veterans.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the February 2, 2017 and March 2, 2017 meetings were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Christine mentioned the letter received from Marty Shane regarding liaisons. The ABCs no longer have to provide a liaison to another ABC. Instead, the Board of Supervisors will appoint a BOS member as liaison to an ABC. Also, the ABCs have to provide a quarterly report to the Township Manager.

NEW BUSINESS

Stones – Jason introduced Tom Hall, a boy scout working on his Eagle Scout, who will be constructing a wooden sign at the Stones Course. Tom described the sign. It will have a roof and plastic box for sheets of paper with the rules of the game. The location of the sign was discussed. Tom gave the timeline for the project to be completed in July 2017. Carmen mentioned that the process for approval is that Tom meets with Mark Miller to go over the project. Mark will help him with materials etc. Then Tom comes back to the next Park & Rec meeting for approval. Then he can start. Ann Marie gave Tom a lot of helpful information. Jason will help him set up a meeting with Mark.

Serpentine Rock - Jason commented that Erich Meyer was here from the Conservancy Board to discuss the Serpentine Rock. Erich mentioned that the CB wants to identify the formations in the area. There are 2 areas in East Goshen Park. Mark Miller has burned one area so it can be seen. The barren goes across Rt. 352 through Hershey Mill. Serpentine Rock is protected because of the unique plants that grow on it. Willistown has a big barren. There has been discussion about putting fencing around the barrens and putting up signs to describe it. Christine has concerns about the rock behind the Veterans Pavilion because people walk on it. A lot of it is buried. Jason commented that the BOS wants recommendations from the Park & Rec Commission and Conservancy Board to only maintain it or develop it for educational purposes. Joe feels that, since efforts have been started to point it out, then signs should be done describing it. Erich mentioned that Natural Lands Trust has a sign you could look at. Joe suggested that a combined committee be selected. Jason will have a committee meeting in September.

East Goshen Park Master Plan Update – Jason asked the Commission members to review the Master Plan immediate and long term projects and get back to him with comments.

OLD BUSINESS

New Playground - Jason provided copies of the proposed playground design. Recreation Resource USA, in Kennett Sq. assisted with the design. Jason mentioned that Rec Resource has the best prices and warranties. He toured a playground they installed in Philadelphia. This plan will go to Tom Committa and Pennoni to check the topography and make any necessary changes. There was discussion about the design. Jason mentioned some items that could be removed if the cost is too high. Shade sails were discussed because shade is an important item. Joe suggested putting trees around the perimeter. Ann Marie suggested a water park.

Bicentennial Celebration – Jason gave a status report. The fireworks and inflatables are booked. There will be food trucks, historic Battle of the Clouds presentation, re-enactors such as Ben Franklin, East High School band will march into the park with the Goshen Fire Co., a dramatic reenactment of the split of East and West Goshen. The Paoli Battlefield members will have a weapons display. Some museums will have crafts for the kids. There will be 2 stages with 3 bands and the Amerikids. He needs at least 70 volunteers.

Picnic Grove – Jason provided a sketch of the proposed picnic grove. There will be a path from the parking lot to and around the existing gazebo. There will be ADA picnic tables, which will have plaques on them. Carmen suggested that the Park Rules be amended to note that the ADA tables can only be used for that.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Walk With Ease – Jason reported that this program has started with about 10 participants per day.

Egg Hunt – This will be held on April 15 with a rain date of April 22. The Easter Bunny will be in the Hicks Pavilion after the egg hunt. The Goshen Fire Police will help with the traffic. For prizes, Jason got lego sets and coloring books. Carolyn Committa will pull the raffle ticket for 1 big chocolate bunny. Swiss Farms is sponsoring the event. Volunteers should be there at 8:30.

Yard Sale – This will be held on May 13 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For those in the park, there will be another event at the basketball courts.

East Goshen Township Bricks – Jason had samples of bricks that people can purchase. These bricks will be used in the pathway to the new playground. To get a tax deduction you will have to pay through the Friends. Carmen suggested a price for residents and a price for businesses.

Cheney University – Jason accepted an appointment to the Cheney University Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies Advisory Board. The Advisory Board’s mission is to advise program curriculum and support the development of student internships, practicum experiences and career pathways.

NRPA – The Dept. of Parks and Recreation is currently being considered for a National Recreation and Park Assoc. Gold Medal (Class 6 – under 30,000 population). The Gold Medal is given annually to the top department in the country. Finalists will be selected in late April and will be required to submit a video. More information is on the township website

DECA – Jason was a guest event judge at the March DECA State Conference at the Hershey Convention Center. Over 1200 students competed in the 45 individual and team events.

Awards – The Park & Recreation Commission was presented with 2 awards from the 2017 PRPS Conference. An “Excellence in Parks and Recreation” award for last year’s Liv Live Concert and Pushups with Purpose and the inaugural “Good Job” award from the DCNR/PRPS Good Marketing Team.

2018 PRPS Conference – Jason was selected to be a 2018 PRPS Conference Program Committee Co-Chair, scheduled for next March at the Kalahari Resort.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Work has started on the tennis courts. They will also install a Pickle Ball court.

The Stones Court is ready for use.

The Butterfly Garden will have its spring cleanup. Jason saw butterflies already.

A new sign is being install at the Park's east entrance.

Christine mentioned that the BBQs need some maintenance.

ANY OTHER MATTER

Dogs in the Park – Jason reported that signs are being prepared to remind people to keep their dogs on a leash.

Commission members feel the fine should be on the signs. Jason commented that, if there is a problem with dogs off their leash, you have to call 911.

Paoli Pike Corridor Trails – Ed reported that the committee had an Open House this past Tuesday before the Board of Supervisors meeting. This gave residents the opportunity to see the proposed trails that will connect different parts of the township to the main Paoli Pike trail.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary