

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
May 3, 2018**

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Christine Taraborelli at 7:00 pm.

Commission members present were:

Dan Leicht
Deborah Snyder
Ed Coyle
Peter Knupp
Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore
Kishor Thakarar

Others present were:

Jason Lang, Director of Recreation
Carmen Battavio, Township Supervisor
Andrew Moore, Intern

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 April 5, 2018 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dog Park Facility – Jason welcomed the residents and introduced Sally Thompson, 575 Franklin Way, who made the following statement: “40 years ago I moved to Easttown Twp. and found myself stranded at home with an active kindergarten age child and nowhere to go with him but the local supermarket. I missed the playground we had in Chestnut Hill that we enjoyed together. With help of the Park Board and Road Crew from Easttown Twp., I took the lead in putting in Easttown’s first playground that was not linked to a school.

As a sociology major, I have long understood the need for happy and safe meeting places for important social and physical reasons for the sake of both parents and their children. The same is completely true for dogs and their owners.

As you know, pets become like our children in many ways. They are meant to run and play just like kids, but because of high traffic areas, a lack of space, or leash rules, they are often held captive in their own surroundings. I strongly believe that our dogs need playgrounds too for the same reason as our children do.

In the four years I’ve been in Hershey’s Mill, I’ve heard from many frustrated dog owners. Numerous people have told me that they cannot take their dogs to West Goshen’s dog park because of the intimidating large dogs that dominate the entire area. My own dog refused to get off my lap!

Before I moved to East Goshen, Concord Township, where I lived for ten years, provided two nice separate dog parks, one for big energetic dogs and one for small or timid dogs, located side-by-side but fenced between.

I hope and pray that you will seriously consider doing the same thing. There are many dog owners of all ages in East Goshen who would also love having the option of a dog park. They are not here tonight because word has not had a chance to get out with no newspaper coverage of the situation, but if they heard that you were contemplating such a thing, they would come out just the way the Hershey’s Mill people did when some of them thought that maybe you would rescue us!

I know it would take a miracle to persuade you to rearrange your budget in order to fit us in this year. However, I hope that you will give it some thought and possibly conclude that a playground that needs upgrading is better than having no place to run freely at all. It is fun for everyone to watch dogs jumping with joy!”

Other comments:

Gail Batcheler, Newtown Sq. – She lived in Hershey’s Mill for 18 years and tried to get a dog park put in there. She estimates that about 30% of Hershey’s Mill residents are dog owners. They were told there was not enough space for a dog park. She asked about the land on the pipeline. Carmen commented that the fuel companies own the pipeline and he believes that nothing can be put on that easement.

Deanie Heller, 1201 Princeton Lane – She had her service dog with her. In 2004 she became disabled and was in a wheelchair. Four years ago, when she applied for a service dog, a question on the application was how would the dog get exercise. She got the dog and is able to walk. She lives in Hershey’s Mill. She is asking for the disabled community – we need a dog park to exercise our dogs.

Nancy Catania, 45 Creekside Dr., Malvern – She lives in Hershey’s Mill but is moving to Malvern. She would love to be able to bring her dog back to visit East Goshen friends.

Allan Pomerantz, 1141 Merrifield Dr, - He asked how donations can be made for this project. Jason explained the Friends of East Goshen.

Michelle Cohn, 567 Franklin Way – asked where it would go. Jason commented that that is the first thing the township has to determine.

Carol D – They take their dog to a park in Ocean City. She can call and get information if needed. They pay \$30 per year and have to show certificates for shots. Large and small dogs are separated.

Jason thanked everyone for coming. He pointed out that it will take time. He reviewed the process. He estimates that the cost will be \$50,000 - \$100,000. It would have to be put into a capital plan if approved. Right now the earliest this could happen in 2022.

2. 5K Park Permit- James and Thanh Dickey, 144 Summit House, provided a Park Permit Application for a 5K walk/run the first weekend in November. The Race For Kaia will be in memory of their stillborn daughter and will raise money for a charity that supports research for stillborn babies. Jason gave options to help them with the event. He recommended the Running Store in West Chester to help them organize this first time event. Carmen mentioned that they will need to get Event Insurance. Dan made a motion to approve the application for this event. Deb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Poet Laureate Interviews – Jason is very pleased with the 3 applicants for this position. He brought each candidate in individually for their interview and thanked each one as they left the meeting.

a. Nancy Daversa, 1640 Yardley Dr. – She has been teaching for 25 years most recently at Immaculata University. She has done poetry at summer camps for kids. She mentioned the ideas she has for teaching poetry to children. Jason asked how the Poet Laureate contributes to the E. Goshen Twp. quality of life? Nancy replied that it could help bring East Goshen to the forefront in the West Chester area. She believes it makes residents feel better about their land and the part they play in being a part of the Township. Carmen asked for her definition of poetry. Nancy answered whatever makes you feel good about something. Ed mentioned that the WCASD recently had a poetry competition for all grades and just gave out awards.

b. Marie Knox, 1141 Merrifield Dr. – She writes more free verse than rhyme. She would like a weekly writers group. She is currently in one with Ginnie Newlin at Hershey’s Mill. She got interested in poetry through her 8th grade teacher and singing. She has been involved in all that Ginnie has done. Jason asked how the Poet Laureate contributes to the E. Goshen Twp. quality of life. Marie answered by introducing people to poetry it gives us a different perspective. It helps us see things in a new way. Carmen asked for her definition of a poem. She answered that it is an image with words.

c. Christi Supple, 1576 Vassar Ct. – She has worked with children in summer camps. She has started some clubs. She lives in Hershey’s Mill and believes that rhyme and rhythm are good for older peoples’ memories. The park is wonderful. Nature has so much to offer. Jason asked how the Poet Laureate contributes to the E. Goshen Twp. quality of life. Christi feels that the Poet Laureate is a sort of wordsmith cheerleader for East Goshen, especially now with so much discouragement about the pipelines. She would like to celebrate the beauty of our Township. Carmen asked for her definition of a poem. She answered it is an emotion recollected in heart felt words, true, honest and sincere.

After discussion, Ann Marie made a motion that Nancy Daversa be nominated as the next Poet Laureate for East Goshen Township. Deb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Playground – Jason reported that the grading is done and trees are in. So far, Tom Comitta will do the inspection on May 23 and Jason hopes to open the playground shortly thereafter. He will have the ribbon cutting ceremony at Community Day, June 30, 2018.

On June 7 he will host East Goshen Elementary School Day – to thank them for all of their help with this project.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Upcoming Events

NYC Trip – 5/12

Yard Sale – 5/19

Community Day – 6/30

Summer camp

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Christine moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary