

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
January 22, 2019
MEETING MINUTES – 3 pages

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Chuck Barbera, Tim Phelps, Valeri Boclair, Kristin Thomas (arrived after meeting started) **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown
Supervisors in Attendance: Scott Lambert
 - b. **Board Unable to Attend:** Gail Keyes
2. **Election of officers** (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary): No volunteers came forward. Motion approved to keep officers the same for 2019 as in 2018: Barbara-Ann Thav (Chair), Valeri Boclair (Vice Chair), and Kristin Thomas (Secretary)
3. **Approval of the December 4, 2018 meeting minutes** (combined Nov/Dec 2018 meeting) – deferred to February 2019 meeting as members did not have a chance to review prior to the meeting.
4. **Public Comment:** General. Marty Lutz in attendance. Marty was interested in update on conversations with St. Gobain property owners about use of their path.
5. Discussions:
 - a. **Rick Trailes**
 1. **Update on Bacton Hill Park master plan process:** We were introduced to Rick Trailes, Natural Lands, in person. Rick Trailes and Natural Lands are the assigned consultants working on the Open Space/Trails Plan as well as the master plan for Bacton Hill Park. Rick Trailes shared his scope of work and asked that we review it for any comments. Barbara-Ann Thav to send Rick Trailes PowerPoint presentation on Bacton Hill Park and the survey we conducted in May 2018 as well as the drone footage taken of the parcel. We will shoot for an April DCNR grant (Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources) that will require a match by the Township. Our Parks & Rec board will serve as the steering committee for the project. We can then re-apply for additional grants for subsequent phases of the park development. We agreed to use our February 2019 meeting as a public meeting to gather more input into the planning. Rick Trailes suggests walking the site as a public meeting, or at least with the Parks & Rec board, although this may be difficult now due to winter weather.
 2. **Update on Open Space & Trails Plan:** Rick Trailes mentioned that the open-space committee will be having their first meeting on 1/29/19 at 7pm at which he hopes to determine their regular meeting schedule.
 - b. **Update on Developments:** Steve Brown gave an update on a few developments. 1- Flat Road: the developer will install a trail along their property frontage with the value equal to the fee in lieu of. They will build their portion of an 8-foot-wide trail for public access for both pedestrian and bike. Their open space is contiguous. Tim Phelps and Barbara-Ann Thav both recommended they have some sort of perpetual care established for the maintenance of the Amish settlement cemetery on their property. 2-GMH (bowling alley on Rt. 30), HP Flanagan (Bacton Hill development); Linden Hall (Rt. 30/Rt 352 possible

apartments); and Shirtz Farm (off Sproul near Immaculata University) will all be fees paid in lieu of open space development on their properties.

1. Scott Lambert mentioned he is beginning work on a tree ordinance for the Township. Rick Trailles, Natural Lands, mentioned PALTA, conserveland.org, heritage trees for some ideas

5. Old Business:

- a. **Valley Creek Park –Developer Offer to Connect Atwater by Trail –provide final recommendation for BOS for their February 2019 meeting:** Steve Brown shared with the board that the northerly route (longest) would cost \$185K and the southerly route would cost \$85K. The board asked if it would include the steps from the Workspace buildings that lead down into the back of the park. Steve Brown said that the ownership of the corporate space is still being determined and that he and Bill Steele (Public Works) would coordinate work on the trail with improving these steps. Motion to approve the northerly route to the tennis courts as the continuation of the Patriot's Path was approved unanimously as it: a) is better use of the steep slope b) follows the recommended Patriot's Path plan that was adopted a few years back by the Township and c) allows for connection to the businesses in the back of the park in addition to the Atwater community and d) maintains the natural vista of the park. The board also suggested safety signage (e.g. trail is steep/not maintained in the winter/use at your own risk) be considered. The board is also concerned with storm-water management.
- b. **Update on Summer Camp:** Steve Brown shared an update on summer camp which will be for four weeks this year and full days (8:30am-3:30pm with drop off at 8am). Camp dates are June 24-July 19, 2019. It will be moved this year to Charlestown Elementary as K.D. Markley has construction work this summer. Michelle, our camp director, is reaching out to old counselors and advertising to recruit new counselors. The online registration should be open by mid-February. Steve Brown has purchased 12 lawn signs to advertise on Township property and will ask the Fire Company to advertise on their electronic board. Kristin Thomas will do a draft of a camp add to use with her community contacts. We are not authorized to post to social media on behalf of the Township until a social media policy is in place. There is a maximum of 120 campers due to space requirements at the school. We motioned and approves a rate increase recommendation of \$145/week/resident child and \$125/week/2nd resident child (or \$580 for the first child/4 weeks and \$500 for each child after). This would equate to \$4.14 per hour which we felt is a reasonable increase to a full day camp.
- c. **Bryn Erin trail connector to Chester Valley Trail – update on work following McMann's presentation at November BOS meeting:** Steve Brown provided an update that the survey was completed last week. Walking the week after our February board meeting with Bill Steele to see where the trail should be located. It will go on the Haym Solomon property a bit, who were previously ok with this. Steve Brown to confirm again with Adam Levine at Haym Solomon once he and Bill walk it. The grant for this has been submitted.
- d. **Spring Mill Farm area/Chester Valley Trail connector – anticipated next steps considering McMahan's presentation at November BOS meeting:** Steve Brown shared that St. Gobain is ok with us using their path but a bit closer to the road than their building. Steve Brown, Zach (Planning), Bill (Public Works), and Natasha (McMahon) have a meeting on 1/24/19 to discuss next steps. We have budgeted \$90K in 2019 for design/engineering of this. Steve Brown to update us at our February 2019 meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. **Policy/process for considering donations** (memorial benches, trees, etc.) – Steve Brown shared a rough draft of a policy, but this is deferred to future meeting due to time. Tim Phelps suggested that we have one plaque with the names of those who have donated to the park.
 - b. **Fee changes:** See summer camp fee recommendations above. We will review other fees in October 2019 for 2020.
7. Meeting Adjournment - **Next meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019** –7pm start time: the bulk of this meeting will be the public meeting on Bacton Hill Park planning.

Minutes compiled by Barbara-Ann Thav

Minutes approved at 2/26/19 Parks & Rec board meeting