

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

February 26, 2019

MEETING MINUTES – 3 pages

1. **Call to Order** – 7:00pm: The Board introduced themselves to the audience in attendance as well as welcomed Carol Rapp as the newest Parks & Rec board member.
  - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Gail Keyes, Chuck Barbera, Tim Phelps, Carol Rapp, Valeri Bocclair (arrived at 8:30pm) **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown  
**Supervisors in Attendance:** none. Scott Lambert unable to attend.
  - b. **Board Unable to Attend:** Kristin Thomas

2. **Bacton Hill Park Master Plan Process: Presentation & Public Input** (7pm-8pm):

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in this.

- a. **Rick Trailes, Natural Lands, to present:** Barbara-Ann Thav introduced Rick Trailes and Kate Raman from Natural Lands by reading their individual biographies. Rick led the meeting by introducing who Natural Lands is, what his and Kate's credentials mean, and what initial work has been done by the Parks & Rec board for brainstorming initial park planning ideas and then securing input from the public with a survey in May 2018. Rick also showed maps, photos, and drone footage of Bacton Hill Park. Rick took the public present (13 adults and 5 girl scouts attended) through the process of completing a written questionnaire and then led the group in a discussion of things that interested them in. Rick stressed that there is no plan yet but what we are working towards a 4/10/19 DCNR grant. Rick and Kate will take the completed questionnaires and summarize to assist them in the next steps of developing a plan. The following discussion points and ideas mentioned by those in attendance were also noted by Barbara-Ann Thav:
  - i. One of the Girl Scouts in attendance suggested a Gaga Ball Pit (see Tree House World for example or <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ga-ga>).
  - ii. It was mentioned not to duplicate what is occurring at other parks in the township or other organizations such as Greater Valley Community Organization (GVCO) and to do something different than what we already have elsewhere in the Township. Example: GVCO is planning on having 8 pickle ball courts. Maybe the park could have yoga in the park, birdwatching, unscheduled space for Scouts to meet, etc.
  - iii. It was mentioned to have a peaceful park, with trees, where you can read a book, maybe listen to a concert.
  - iv. It was also mentioned that crossing Bacton Hill Park Road while on the Chester Valley Trail, especially at rush hour in the afternoon can be dangerous. It would be nice to have sidewalks on Bacton Hill Park Road so that neighbors in the houses and business there could walk to the park instead of having to drive and park.
  - v. Mark Bevevino from Macadam, a local business located very close to the park, is concerned about the speed limit and amount of traffic making it a bit dangerous to cross the road on Bacton Hill. Also, he shared that he has a lot of trucks coming in/out of his facilities and there may be some super-fund water issues at the bottom of the road. Mark also shared that he thought there was a trail into the park property from Malvern Hunt. He was also concerned about their being enough room for parking and with the width of the entry road. He shared that last year there were some truck break-ins in the area. Mark shared his concerns about it being an industrial area with a lot of truck activity and asked how we would keep park goers in the park and not cutting thru these businesses and keep them safe.

- vi. It was mentioned to have the ability for wheel chairs to get around the park.
- vii. It was mentioned to have a skate board park.
- viii. It was mentioned to have items/activities that encourage kids to get out of the house (e.g. life-size chess boards).
- ix. It was asked if there is a plan to level out the slope.
- x. Erin Tedesco from The Mom's Club attended and shared her contact information with Natural Lands. She mentioned their interest in an all abilities/sensory playground that could possibly be fenced in.
- xi. It was mentioned that the Chester Valley Trail floods in the area by the park and often gets icy. It needs drainage there. Users of the trail there shared that it seems that water comes through the tunnel under Swedesford Road from the West side and that paving parts of the park could make this worse.
- xii. It was mentioned that given the development in the Township, it would be nice not to over develop this park but let it go to a natural meadow with wild flowers. Less is more was the comment used.

### 3. New Business:

- a. **Girl Scout Project – “little library” in Battle of the Clouds Park:** Miss Nithya Mooli presented her plan with a PowerPoint presentation for a little leave a book/take a book library for Battle of the Clouds. This is a Girl Scout (GS) project that she is still waiting on GS committee approval for. She would organize the entire project: planning the project; securing/building the container that would hold the books, getting donations from groups like Barnes & Noble to fund it/stock it, restocking the books if necessary, and hosting a ribbon cutting-like ceremony when it opens. She hopes to have it open by September. She is interested in putting the structure on the inside edge of the pavilion by one of the footers for stability and so it is somewhat covered by the elements. Steve Brown and Bill Steele (Public Works) have provided some input on this to Nithya. Barbara-Ann Thav emailed Nithya the website for the little library movement for her to research as she had not heard of it <https://littlefreelibrary.org>. The Park & Rec board motioned to approve that Nithya continue her project by presenting to the BOS for their approval.
- b. **Announcements:** Tim Phelps announced the following upcoming events:
  - i. April 3 - 5:00-7pm will be the Public Open House for the Warner Spur Trail. It will be in Keene Hall at the Tredyffrin Township Building
  - ii. April 12 - 1:30pm East Whiteland Township Building Press Conference for Chester County Opening Day of the Trails (12:30pm-2:15pm) Featuring Deputy Secretary of DCNR Lauren Imgrund
  - iii. April 13 - Opening Day of Trails (National Event)

### 4. Old Business:

- a. **Approval of the December 4, 2018 and January 22, 2019 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve both minutes with spelling corrections passed.
- b. **Valley Creek Park –Patriot’s Path connection from Atwater – update from February 2019 BOS meeting:** Barbara-Ann Thav updated the group that the BOS decided that a team should walk the property before they render a final decision on a northern or southern path route. The BOS did not approve our Northern route recommendation at their January meeting. This team to walk the park would include the BOS, Arro (Township engineer), Steve Brown, the Park & Rec board, and the Atwater

developer (if they are able to attend). Tim Phelps pointed out that the map shown at the January 2019 BOS meeting was not the correct path, as our recommendation was to follow the recommendation made by the Patriot Path maps, which show the path being a Northern route that terminates by the tennis courts, not the parking lot as the BOS were shown. We will again share this when we all get together to walk the path to discuss options. Parks & Rec members prefer to meet at Valley Creek Park around 7:30am before 3/10/19. Steve to coordinate a date with all the parties involved.

- c. **Update on Summer Camp:** Steve Brown shared that we have 23 campers registered to date which is more than the same time last year. Michelle, Camp Director, is planning the activities and advertising for counselors. Tim Phelps recommended for Michelle to reach out to the Girl Scouts. Tim will email Michelle that idea in response to her email where we provided additional marketing options of where to advertise for counselors.
  - d. **Update on other trail projects:** Steve Brown provided an update on the following. These projects continue to move ahead:
    - i. **Spring Mills to CVT connection:** We have \$90k budgeted in 2019 for design & engineering for this project. We may need to ask for more budget given the increased stretch of this connection due to St. Gobain allowing us to use the path on their property. Natasha from McMahan working on estimate.
    - ii. **Bryn Erin to CVT connection:** Today, Steve Brown walked the site with EWT Public Works. Steve will reach out this week to discuss with Adam Levine from Haim Solomon as part of this will be on their property.
  - e. **Update from GVCO (Keith Walsh):** Deferred to next board meeting due to time. Barbara-Ann Thav to share update blast email to the board that GVCO sent out this week.
5. **Public Comment:** General: None during the regular portion of the meeting. Bacton Hill Park comments summarized above.
6. **Meeting Adjournment** - Next meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 –7pm start time: Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Minutes compiled by Barbara-Ann Thav  
Minutes approved at 3/26/19 Parks & Rec Board Meeting