

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION  
June 25, 2020 (virtual)  
MEETING NOTES

1. Call to Order & Housekeeping – 7:00pm: (5 minutes)
  - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Carol Rapp, Gail Keyes, Tim Phelps, Chuck Barbera, Tom O’Neill **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown, Donna Wikert **Supervisors in Attendance:** Scott Lambert
  - b. **Board Unable to Attend:** Kristin Thomas
  - c. **Approval of the February 25, 2020 meeting minutes** (March 2020 - May 2020 meetings cancelled due to Covid-19) – Minutes approved.
2. Business to Discuss: (35 minutes)
  - a. **Short update from Steve Brown on park facility usage moving into Green Phase** – Township operations are settling in during the pandemic. During the Pennsylvania (PA) Red Phase, the parks were not open and parks were not blocked off to prevent use. There was some caution tape put up to discourage use of the playground equipment. During the PA Yellow Phase, the tennis courts opened up but ours were in the process of being resurfaced so they remained closed. Tim Phelps asked Steve Brown to inquire if we can join the GV School District in their cadence for repaving their tennis courts for possible economies of scale in future court paving projects. The Township is following guidelines from the PA Department of Health, the CDC and the PA Recreation and Parks Society. Now that PA is in the Green Phase, all Parks and amenities are open. People are playing in the playgrounds and the Township is able to rent the pavilions up to 250 people. The Township is not sanitizing pavilions and playground equipment but looking to put up permanent metal signs with pandemic safety rules around the playgrounds and bathroom facilities (wear masks, stay 6 feet apart, wash hands frequently, we recommend you bring your own cleaning supplies). The park bathrooms are being cleaned two times a week. Steve Brown to inquire with the Solicitor if we should have a clause on the pavilion rental agreement about not being responsible for illness due to Covid-19 with use of the pavilions.
  - b. **Bacton Hill Park – Playground** - Gail Keyes, Barbara-Ann Thav and Steve Brown (sub-committee) met by video conference with Kompan, playground equipment provider, earlier in the month – Erin from the Mom’s Club joined. At this June meeting, Parks & Rec board reviewed the Bacton Hill Park playground presentation on possible design by Kompan.
    - Make interesting durable equipment to last 25 yrs (others 15 yrs)
    - Colorful, graduated challenges, different levels for different abilities including for children on the Autism spectrum; certification for safety
    - Inclusiveness – all pieces may not be all abilities
    - No slides cover accessibility – should explore more with Ann Toole
    - Sensory part – xylophones, flowers that play music
    - Not 100% wheel chair based but feedback from Mom’s Club is that it was pretty accessible; maybe add more high back swings; have restroom not too far from play area; antibacterial materials, outdoor hand washing stations; put toddler swings in toddler area

- Should there be an age requirement for adult area? Suggestion to put fence instead of hedge around the adult exercise area.
- Need to explain safety to users, especially around Supernova climbing feature.
- Train theme to tie into area as well.
- Fitness area – per Ann Toole senior citizens want to use what others are using; overlooks 2 – 5 age area. Scott Lambert inquired about more senior fitness areas (there will also be pickle ball courts in the park).
- Tom O’Neill mentioned that the parent wait /congregation area may be too far from younger play area. Look at site lines to smaller age group areas

Tim Phelps provided a link to the Veterans Park in Havre De Grace which is an adult fitness and "sitting" park.

[https://www.google.com/maps/@39.543935,-](https://www.google.com/maps/@39.543935,-76.0854983,3a,40.2y,293.19h,89.3t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sdwan-8x4A7WkmGNob4UaBA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656)

[76.0854983,3a,40.2y,293.19h,89.3t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sdwan-8x4A7WkmGNob4UaBA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656](https://www.google.com/maps/@39.543935,-76.0854983,3a,40.2y,293.19h,89.3t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sdwan-8x4A7WkmGNob4UaBA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656)

#### Funds for Bacton Hill Park

- Mom’s club fundraising – hope to raise \$100K. They will need more detailed plans to begin the fundraising.
- We have received \$200k grant & \$100K grant to put towards this - \$1.5M in rec fees from developers to be spread over multiple park projects – Atwater owes \$330k in fee in lieu of.
- Budget two years ago was \$225k for the playground – went up to \$250k this year – now in February 2020 cost for the entire park is \$900k (does not include restroom which is \$100k estimated additional) – Project for phase one around \$1.3M

#### Phases for Park

- Pickle ball courts in phase 2
  - Tim Phelps – need to revisit the phases and cost for the total project
  - Scott Lambert – had hoped to have some portion of Phase 1 into the ground for 2020; doesn’t think that is going to happen due to timing of bids, storm water permits, etc.
  - Barbara-Ann Thav – couldn’t we mow the grass, put gravel down, remove sign, clean up area so people can start using for hiking as we had originally proposed at the onset of this project.
- c. **Valley Creek Park - Trail connection from Great Valley Corporate Park to Atwater trail/Patriots Path** – Steve Brown presented two options for this connector. Option 1: steeper slope (19%) with cost around \$38k. Option 2: flatter slope (13%) and brings the path closer to Atwater (follows the topography better) a bit tucked away with cost around \$43k. Path to be 8 feet wide, although Gail Keyes, Carol Rapp and Barbara-Ann Thav preferred the path to be 6 feet wide. The Township will monitor the installation by the Atwater contractor who will put in this path. The Township will use some of the fee in lieu of dollars from the Atwater development for this build. Park & Rec motioned and approved to recommend Option 2 to the Supervisors at their next meeting.
  - d. **Other News** – Steve Brown shared that Bill Steele, Public Works Director, has retired. Scott Lambert shared that Tom O’Neill has been appointed to the Parks & Rec board by the Supervisors.
  - e. **Down East Park Playground Project** – The Bitto family had taken a pause on the playground planning in memory of their daughter Julia due to the pandemic. They are

starting to move ahead again. Initial goal was to have a ribbon cutting in June 2020 in time for Julia Bitto's birthday.

3. **Public Comment:** (10 minutes): None
4. **Meeting Adjournment at 8:31pm-** Next meeting planned for Tuesday, July 28, 2020 –7pm start time – Chuck Barbera and Tim Phelps advise they will be unable to attend. It is not decided when we will be able to meet in person and more than likely the July meeting will be virtual. Barbara-Ann Thav and Carol Rapp both indicated their desire to keep the virtual meetings going until there is a proven vaccine for Covid-19.

Notes compiled by Carol Rapp and Barbara-Ann Thav.

Notes approved at the 7/28/20 Parks & Rec Board Meeting, with minor corrections.