

East Whiteland Township Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes - Approved

July 23, 2019

1. Call to Order – The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.
  - a. Board in Attendance: Barbara Ann Thav, Valeri Boclair, Gail Keyes, Tim Phelps, Chuck Barbera, and Carol Rapp, Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown, and Supervisors in attendance: Scott Lambert
  - b. Board not in Attendance: Kristen Volpe Thomas
    - i. It was discussed that all Board members make every effort possible to attend all Board Meetings. The June meeting was lightly attended and we did not have quorum.
  - c. Approval of the April 23, 2019 and June 25, 2019. The Board unanimously approved both the April 23, 2019 and June 25, 2019 meeting minutes.
2. Old Business:
  - a. Bacton Hill Park – The Board discussed reactivating the Sub-Committee for Bacton Hill Park for oversight of the Natural Lands review. This will help with ensuring deadlines are in place and being met and begin to create a communication plan to keep the Community updated on the progress. A conversation about placing the existing progress about the Bacton Hill Park status on the EWT website was discussed. Steve Brown will work on this request. We are awaiting results of our phase 1 grant request.
  - b. Valley Creek Park – Steve Brown presented the proposed diagram to the Supervisors for connection of the Patriot’s Path from Atwater and it was approved along with a width of an eight foot wide path. Timing for beginning construction needs to be finalized.
  - c. Summer Camp – Camp was a huge success. The families involved appreciated the change in time from half day to full day and it being shortened from five to four weeks long. There were 104 campers this year which was at capacity for the new full day structure. We may move the capacity back to 120 in 2020 now that we have the first year of the new structure complete. There were some positive comments about the camp on Facebook, Chuck will try to pull them and use on our website. Additionally, the team discussed providing a survey to all of the camp families for feedback. Steve Brown will discuss sending a survey with Michelle. Anne Toole visited the camp to talk to the campers about what they would like to see in current and future EWT parks and received a lot of great feedback from the kids. She will share the feedback with Natural Lands for their analysis. The team also discussed reviewing the costs of operating the camp in 2018 versus 2019 to see if they are in line or if changes need to be made. Carol Rapp asked if we could consider two camp sessions each over a four-week period.
  - d. Battle of the Clouds Mini Library – The Girl Scout driving this project is ready to move forward. Steve Brown will work with Bill Steele to begin the process. Additionally, the Girl Scout organizing the project needs to talk to John Nields to coordinate the details. The team discussed a process needs to be created for reviewing the books periodically going forward to ensure they are appropriate.
  - e. Bryn Erin & Sidley/Mill to Chester Valley Trail – We are ready to move forward with the Bryn Erin trail. Construction will most likely begin in the Fall once the leaves are off the

trees. Steve Brown will confirm with John Niels. We are also waiting for the DVRPC contract which is still not in. The Board also discussed the Sidley/Mill to Chester Valley trail. We have received verbal confirmation from 90 North and written through email from Aegon. The Board feels that it is important to have all of the agreements in writing. Steve Brown mentioned this will occur at the easement stage.

- f. Down East Park Update – Tim Bitto provided an update on the survey to all families in the community. There are 130 households and he has received 43 responses from 34 of the households. He will close the survey in one more week and provide the Board with an update. Where Angels Play is the foundation that will help plan the space and financially help him raise the money needed for the new playground equipment. \$30K has been raised to date. Tim Bitto mentioned that he has contacts that may be able to volunteer their services to help with pruning trees that are in the way. This project will only focus on the playground equipment for phase one. We will incorporate the rest of the park in a phase two approach with the partnership of the Natural Lands Survey with a request to add a gazebo. A motion by Chuck Barbera was made and seconded by Valeri Bocclair to “commit to working with Tim Bitto to review and confirm the process and decide if a partnership between EWT Parks & Recreation and Tim Bitto & Where Angels Play will work for this project” and was then unanimously approved by all Board members. Chuck Barbera, Gail Keyes, and Carol Rapp will be the team that partners with Tim Bitto.
  - g. Policy for Donations – Anne Toole has some input to this.
  - h. Update from Open Space Committee – Anne Toole will come to the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to present. Currently EWT allocates \$9 per capita spend for open space. It was discussed that we review what a \$12-\$15 per capita spend would look like for Parks and Recreation if increased.
  - i. Park signs update – Steve Brown will work on replacement signs for both Ecology Park and Bacton Hill Park.
3. New Business
    - a. 2020 Budget Planning – We will begin to plan the budget for 2020.
  4. Meeting Adjourned at 9:07pm, the next meeting is on August 27, 2019.

Meeting minutes compiled by Valeri Bocclair and Barbara-Ann Thav

Meeting minutes approved at the 8/27/19 Parks & Rec board meeting