

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
August 25, 2020 (virtual)
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Housekeeping – 7:00pm: (10 minutes)
 - a. Board in Attendance: Kristin Thomas, Barbara-Ann Thav, Chuck Barbera, Tom O’Neill, Tim Phelps, Carol Rapp
 - i. Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown, Donna Wikert
 - ii. Supervisors in Attendance: Scott Lambert
 - b. Board Unable to Attend: Gail Keyes
 - c. Welcome Tom O’Neill to the Parks & Rec Board
 - d. Approval of the July 28, 2020 meeting minutes (March 2020 - May 2020 meetings cancelled due to Covid-19) – Minutes approved
2. Business to Discuss: (40 minutes)
 - a. Bacton Hill Park
 - i. Update from August 18, 2020 sub-committee meeting – the subcommittee (Barbara-Ann Thav, Gail Keyes, and Steve Brown) met and discussed creating a PPT outlining the elements of Phase Zero, Phase One and Phase Two and Excel spreadsheet to share with Parks & Rec and potentially the Board of Supervisors.
 - ii. Barbara-Ann Thav presented this slide deck and high-level spreadsheet as well as risks associated with each phase.
 - iii. PHASE ZERO DISCUSSION:
 1. Chuck Barbera is in favor of a big picture communication plan for the public in order to drive enthusiasm for the end result park. Barbara-Ann Thav attempted to invite Monique Williams, EWT’s new communications coordinator to this meeting, but was told by Steve Brown that this needed to be discussed with John Nagel, Township Manager first. This did not occur in time for our August meeting.
 2. Carol asked about trash cans and doggie stations for Phase Zero. Barbara-Ann Thav indicated that these would not be in this early phase. Steve Brown suggested that the message to users would be “what you take in, you take out.”
 3. Tim Phelps suggested a field survey be done to check for holes in the field via a walk around of where the path would be. Steve Brown felt pretty comfortable that the land is in good shape.
 4. In Phase One, the mowed path would not connect to the trail yet.
 5. The Parks & Rec board approved to move forward with this recommendation so that the park could be used this Fall. Steve Brown so secure firmer cost elements and discuss with Public Works.
 - iv. PHASE ONE DISCUSSION:
 1. If we wait for the permit for storm water management to start we risk delays.

2. Scott Lambert asked us to include security/emergency button/lights around the property are part of Phase One. Barbara-Ann Thav will make a note of this request.
 3. Tim Phelps suggested looking into Homeland Security or Police Safety grants to install safety and emergency access on the property and for all of our parks.
 4. Barbara-Ann Thav stated that the path will be 8 feet wide paved due to ADA, township guidelines, etc.
 5. Kristin Thomas asked if the nicer porta potties are year-round or would be removed off season. We would need to gather costs and find out more information about this.
 6. Chuck Barbera stated that the new community next door to the park is advertising access to the park and have a sidewalk in place out front.
 7. Carol Rapp pointed out that trash cans need to be added to the PPT deck for Phase One.
 8. The Township needs to be prepared to cover costs for playground in case Moms' Club fundraising does not come through.
 9. The board agreed to move forward with this plan pending final cost estimates.
- v. PHASE TWO DISCUSSION:
1. Kristin Thomas requested that the skatepark and/or pump track be added back in as potential options as shown on the rendering/map that was referenced in last month's meeting as we received requests for both options on the community survey and in the public meeting.
 2. Tim Phelps asked if sponsorships within the park would be allowed. Barbara-Ann Thav pointed out that there was to have been some suggestions to a sponsorship plan in general coming from the Open Space consultant(s). Tim Phelps mentioned this was not part of the work.
 3. Chuck Barbera would like to see the entire playground in Phase One and not phased in so as to have a big splash in the community. This led to a discussion about managing overall costs and how do we balance phasing items in (portions of the park would have to be closed to do so per Tim Phelps) to manage costs while not having this project go further out on the calendar.
 4. Scott Lambert and Steve Brown gave a brief update on some trees for the park coming from a development project nearby.
- vi. Pricing/budget discussion:
1. The purpose of the spreadsheet is to look at entire costs to assist with determining what if anything needs to be phased in due to cost. Chuck Barbera stated that the Board of Supervisors should determine optional elements of the park, not Parks & Rec..
 2. Tim Phelps asked that we make it clear that this is a 20-year investment for the Township. East Whiteland hasn't done a park like this in a very long time and won't do another for 15 years.
- b. Covid-19 – update on park signage planned. Steve confirmed that two signs are up in Battle of the Clouds and will have to confirm that they are up in the other parks as well.
- c. 2021 Budget Planning – We will have to nail down our recommendations at our September meeting. Barbara-Ann Thav asked everyone to come with their ideas to the

September meeting. Parks & Rec funding comes mostly out of the capital fund. Some suggestions for 2020 include:

1. Bacton Hill Park construction
2. Connector trail for Mill/Sidley Lane for engineering and surveying
3. Parks, Rec, and Open Space Planning recommendations
4. Master Plan for Down East Park
5. Unified Parks signage – Tim Phelps asked if this initiative is moving forward. Scott Lambert indicated that he is still working on it.
6. Participate in West Whiteland Community Day 2021, pending pandemic issues
7. Summer Camp 2021, pending pandemic issues
8. Summer Concerts 2021, pending pandemic issues
9. Battle of the Clouds bathroom work

d. Completed in 2020:

1. Parks, Rec, and Open Space plan
2. Connection from Bryn Erin to CVT – paved path done. Need to add some fencing/landscaping this Fall.
3. Patriot's Path, connection from Atwater to Valley Creek, and connection from corporate center – the connection from Atwater is done and the connection from the corporate center is almost done.
4. Tennis Courts resurfaced
5. Basketball court redone in Down East Park
6. Road work in Valley Creek Park
7. Bacton Hill Park Planning
8. Purchased Gaga Ball Pit for Battle of the Clouds – had been approved but needs to be installed
9. Battle of the Clouds, change to a 50/70 ball field – had been approved but still needs to be completed
10. Battle of the Clouds, work on the bathrooms – this did not occur in 2020
11. Donation to People's Light Theater to have drive-in concerts – this was in lieu of the summer concerts. People's Light charges for entry. It was advertised on the Township's website.

e. Atwater to Valley Creek Park paved trail connection – this was completed. Barbara-Ann Thav recommended that the board check out the new path.

- i. Kristin Thomas reminded the board of the optics of making new trail connections for new communities and not moving forward for older ones that have been waiting for years to connect to our parks and the CVT. Maybe our new communications person can help with trail connection messaging.

3. Public Comment: (10 minutes) - none

4. Meeting Adjournment - Next meeting planned for Tuesday, September 22, 2020 –7pm start time

Minutes compiled by Kristin Thomas and Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at the 9/22/20 Parks & Rec Board Meeting