

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – October 5, 2020 via Zoom
Chairperson Brian Sulewski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Notice Statement – The Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied by notification to the Hunterdon County Democrat and by posting with the Township Clerk and on the Delaware Township bulletin board on xxxx, 2020.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Rebecca Burns, Tim Drew, Tim Soltis, Brian Sulewski,
Linda Ubry
Absent: Connor Devlin, Kristin Devlin, Charles Herman, Aiden Ricci,
Julie Luster-Roell, Toby Ruttenberg, Steve Smotrich

Also Present: Joe Benincasa

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of September 9, 2020 – Linda Ubry moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 9, 2020, Brian Sulewski seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes with an abstention by Tim Drew. .

New Member:

Joe Benincasa introduced himself, provided some background information about his family and work, and explained why he would like to serve on the Recreation Commission. The Benincasa Family supported the construction of the new bocce court at the Dilts Farm Park in memory of their daughter, Katie. Tim asked him to organize a bocce tournament once he is formally appointed to the Recreation Commission, and Joe agreed.

REPORTS

Teens – No Report

Board of Education – Rebecca reported the Board extended half-days of school to November 30.

DTAA – Tim Drew said he wants to discuss the winter basketball program with the DTS Board (Rebecca has left the meeting briefly). Teams would play other programs or play in-house only, dependent on conditions. He understood if the Board continued its current school-use only policy. Soccer is in full swing with in-house play at the Dilts Farm. Softball and baseball play is ongoing with mini tournaments scheduled later this fall. Park conditions are great. The tennis and basketball courts are used every night. Joe said he has been raking the bocce court daily, and he will work with Tim to access the equipment shed for use of a rake.

Tim Soltis asked where the AED unit is kept at the Park. Tim Drew said it is stored in the equipment shed, but the batteries need to be changed. Members discussed possible alternate locations so that the unit would be more accessible, if needed. Tim said the soccer programs are

wonderful teachable opportunities. Brian agreed that there is a lot of parental involvement. Tim Drew said DTAA is looking for a Treasurer.

Rebecca returned to the meeting. She said the Board is not permitting any outside use of school facilities at this time. Tim Drew said the basketball program could start in 2021 depending on infection rates and if authorized by the Board.

In response to a question about an infected teacher at Hunterdon Central, Rebecca said DTS does not test for Covid. Anyone concerned with possible exposure or symptoms would contact his family practitioner.

Open Space – Brian said Steve has been working with Delaware Township Treasurer Diane McDaniel on a maintenance budget for the Dilts Park in order to apply for grant funds for Park maintenance. He said Steve wants to wrap this up by the next meeting. Brian said Steve can use the information Diane provides to prepare a grant application

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS – Judy said only Township related uses were received this month, and Kathy Klink approved them.

HALLOWEEN EVENT – OCTOBER 31ST AT DILTS FARM PARK

Members discussed a planned Halloween event at the Dilts Park on October 31st. It will be a pumpkin carving contest with entrants bringing their carved pumpkins to the Park by 9:30 a.m. with judging to run between 10 a.m. and Noon. There are five categories of Decoration: Classic, scariest, funniest, most creative, and 2020 theme. There will also be one “Best in Show” pumpkin. Residents wearing masks and using social distancing will vote, and prizes will be awarded at 1 p.m. Members agreed to award gift certificates to local businesses in the amounts of \$25, \$15 and \$10 in each category with the grand prize winner receiving a \$50 gift certificate to Shop Rite. Members approved a flyer prepared by Tracy Wright.

Joe said he may be able to provide candy, and he will look into what is available.

COMMITTEES:

Summer Recreation – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Egg Hunt – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Yard Sale – September 12th - Judy said this event went well. About forty residents registered to sell.

Fishing Derby – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Plant Swap – October 3^{re}. Jes Stahl ran this event at the Dilts Park. She agreed to run swaps again next year.

Campout and Bonfire – To be considered in 2021.

Great Crate Race – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Fall Fun Fireworks – September 12th – Brian said the event went well. Social distancing was pretty successful. Some residents complained about the noise with comments on social media and by calling Charlie Herman. Judy said there were also many compliments. The display ran twenty minutes, and members agreed that is an appropriate length.

Community Day/Block Party – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Holiday Decorating Contest – After discussion, members agreed to run this event as in the past with members judging entries. The Commission will try to advertise it better. Residents who register their decorated houses will be advised that the list of winners and their addresses will be posted on the Township website in case someone would like to see the winning homes.

Members want to arrange for an evergreen tree to be planted on the Sergeantsville Green so there could be a holiday activity there next year. A tree donation would be appreciated.

Ice Rink – Pending installation.

Adult and Teen Recreation at DTS – These uses are on hold due to Covid-19.

Scavenger Hunt – Members agreed to hold this activity again in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Members discussed repair of the cracks on the basketball court. Charlie had previously mentioned discussion in the past about a possible future multi-use building on that site. Members agreed it would be a great space for many activities. Brian said that Joe who had to leave the meeting earlier had mentioned to him that he may have access to possible donors for such a building with the donors' names on it. Members agreed the cracks should be fixed in the meantime. They agreed to do a building feasibility study next year.

NEW BUSINESS –

Tim Drew said former DTAA Coach and Township resident Carl Evans recently died.

Members discussed the celebration of three Scout projects at the Dilts Park on September 30th: a water bottle filler station, expansion of the playground area for two new picnic tables, and the bocce court.

Financial Report – No update. Members were not able to open information provided by email from Diane McDaniel re: Park maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom