

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – March 1, 2021 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 January 12, 2021.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Joe Benincasa, Tim Drew, Charles Herman, Tyler Kadezabek, Julie Luster-Roell, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry
Absent: Heather Opdyke

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of February 1, 2021 – Linda moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 1, 2021, Steve seconded motion, and members present approved the minutes with abstentions by Tim Drew, Julie, Charlie and Rebecca.

Memorial Bench at the Dilts Farm Park

Susan Ireland would like to donate a bench at the Park in memory of her husband. Members reviewed a proposed location and bench materials. Members said it is possible that any Park expansion in that direction (north of the Bocce Court) in the future may require moving the bench. It should be placed beyond the walking path in the direction of the stone wall. It may need to be covered for protection when there is a fireworks display. Members discussed a uniform style/design for future benches at the Park, agreeing that the bench proposed by Ms. Ireland should be the standard. They discussed what material should be placed under the bench and agreed that the stone product used on the walking trail should be used under the bench. They agreed that any plaque language guidance that Hunterdon County requires in its Park bench standards should be utilized. Ms. Ireland should work with Director of Public Works Jay Trstensky to install the bench.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS

Fire Pit at Dilts Park – Use Regulations

Members approved Jeannie Colalillo’s request to use the fire pit at the Dilts Park. If snow cover is an issue for her requested March date, her alternative April date is also approved.

Members reviewed draft Fire Pit Usage Rules and Regulations language provided by Deputy Clerk Tiffany Crivelli. They appreciated her research into this matter. Tim Soltis said he contacted SVFC Chief Greg Bunting about fire pit use. Requestors should notify both the DTPD and SVFC at the start and end of the fire. He will get a contact for Chief Bunting to add to the Rules. Members agreed that a one mile per hour wind restriction would be difficult to measure. Charlie said the State Fire Marshall’s office inspected and approved the fire pit and indicated that generally it would be safe to use under most conditions. The proposed Rules reference a lid for the fire pit. Charlie said the Township is purchasing an ember-suppressing lid.

REPORTS

Teen - New Teen Liaison Tyler Kadezabek reported on ideas he developed for teen activities. He proposed a hiking trip in May or October, an outdoor movie with multiple protectors so that attendees can spread out, and a chartered fishing trip. All activities would use social distancing. Members encouraged him to start with a May hike somewhere local. The Township can provide juice and bagels. Julie said she will send him a link for local trails. Permission slips will be required, and there must be an adult chaperone. Tyler will pick a date, time and location and notify Brian and Julie for help in promoting it on social media.

DTS-BOE – Rebecca reported that the DTS Board of Education will decide whether to return to full days of school starting on April 12th provided that Covid-19 infections continue to trend down. Virtual learning will continue as an option through the end of the school year. If students travel to states listed in New Jersey’s restricted list over Spring Break, they will have to quarantine for fourteen days before returning to school in person. In May a State School Board representative will meet with the Board to consider a strategic five-year plan. She said the School will offer virtual enrichment programs and consider spring outdoor sports. No indoor facility requests are being approved at this time. Step one is full day in-person school.

DTAA – Tim Drew reported that soccer begins April 10th. Baseball and softball will begin shortly after. Opening Day for baseball/softball is April 24th. DTAA will submit its Dilts Park facility use requests after it receives its updated insurance certificate. He said there are no conflicts with the dates requested by the Girl Scouts for meetings at the Pavilion. He said the scoreboard dedication can take place on Opening Day. Field clay must be replenished. Work is needed on the dugouts. There will not be a spring DTAA fundraiser.

Open Space – Steve said the Township Committee approved the Open Space Maintenance Plan, and it has been submitted to Hunterdon County. He estimated \$26,000 in maintenance funding will be forthcoming from the County. He said Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton resigned to take a position with the County.

COMMITTEES:

Egg Hunt – Members discussed alternatives to the traditional Egg Hunt. Tim Soltis spoke with SVFC Greg Bunting about a possible Easter Bunny drive through the Township. Rebecca offered to help promoting the event on social media. He proposed pre-determined stops along the way to meet with families. Members agreed there will no candy. Tim and Rebecca will continue to work on this event scheduled for April 3rd.

Yard Sale – Judy said the May Yard Sale will be May 15th with a May 16th rain date.

Plant Swap – Jes Stahl will run the plant swap on May 23rd. Members agreed to invite Jes to attend the April or May meeting.

Campout and Bonfire – Will probably be postponed or cancelled.

Fishing Derby – Will probably be postponed or cancelled.

Great Crate Race – July 4th – Steve said it is too soon to make a final decision on the Race. A reduced version may be more appropriate this year with perhaps only a parade and the race.

Summer Recreation – Brian said that according to Director Maegan Harrington not much advance time is needed to arrange a Program. The Commission will decide in May whether to run a Program. Rebecca said she will bring up the Program in School Board committee meetings.

Fall Fun Fireworks – September 11th – Will be discussed.

Community Day/Block Party – Will be discussed.

Halloween Activity – Will be discussed.

Holiday Decorating Contest/Holiday Lighting – Will be discussed.

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

Scavenger Hunt – Will be discussed.

Baseball Trip – Steve received information from the NY Yankees organization about group rates for games. This may be a good event sometime in the future. Joe said the Somerset Patriots are transitioning to a Yankees AA team. The stadium is undergoing renovations. A group rate there is a good option.

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND ADDITION

Julie said the goal is to plan and install the addition of an inclusive playground at the Dilts Park. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation would provide a one-time donation of up to \$50,000 with any future costs to be paid by the Township. The Township would buy and install the equipment, and the work must be completed by the end of 2021. Members agreed this will be a good addition to the current playground.

OLD BUSINESS –

Ice Rink – The weather has not cooperated this winter to permit installation of the ice skating rink at the Dilts Park.

Dilts Park – Update – Overall Park Review and Plan

Brian thought it would be a good idea for the Recreation Commission to hold a special meeting and invite all Township boards/committees/commissions to discuss the future of the Dilts Park,

both short-term and long-term. Immediate needs are repairs to the basketball and tennis courts, restroom renovations, parking lot expansion and the playground addition. Charlie said the courts should be repaired by May. He said the DPW can get quotes. He will discuss this with the Township Committee at its March 8th meeting before contacting DPW Director Jay Trstensky. Tim Soltis thought the Commission should first draft proposals and requests for input to send with the meeting invitation. After the meeting, there needs to be a Park Master Plan. Steve thought there should be an overall Park description for the Master Plan. He thought the Township needs a planner for a long range plan. Linda thought the Recreation Commission could spearhead a vision for the Park using expertise from DTAA and input from all boards and residents. Tim Soltis asked whether the discussion should include a plan for the Sergeantsville Green.

Brian asked Joe and Linda to draft a one page letter with vision points. Joe said he wants to see the current Plan first.

Members agreed to hold a special meeting on March 22nd at 7:15 p.m. in person at the Township Building to review Park maps and surveys and to discuss the points raised in the letter.

2021 Budget

Charlie said the Township Committee has not scheduled any 2021 budget meetings. Final aid figures have not yet been determined.

Food Trucks – This will be considered at a future time.

NEW BUSINESS –

Bocce - Joe said he and his wife Nancy would like to host a Bocce Tournament at the Park.

Dilts Spraying – Tim asked that field and walkway chemical spraying be coordinated with Public Works. Spraying early in the week is the optimal time in terms of sports activities on the fields. Members asked Judy to contact DPW Jay Trstensky to coordinate spraying with DTAA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 5, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom