

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – September 9, 2019

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 Trenton Times and by posting with the Township Clerk and on the Delaware Township bulletin board on January 10, 2019.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of June 10, 2019 – Members agreed to postpone approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 10, 2019.

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of July 1, 2019

Linda Ubry moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 1, 2019, Tim Soltis seconded the motion, and members eligible to vote on the minutes unanimously approved them.

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE ETHAN GILLESPIE – BOCCE COURT AT DILTS PARK

Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan Gillespie and members discussed a proposed new location for the bocce ball court at the Dilts Park. It will be near the paved parking area past the tennis courts and Field of Dreams. Brian explained that it is not in the possible line of foul balls from the Field of Dreams. That area is where the Commission envisions possible future expansion of the Park, and the bocce court would anchor that expansion. Ethan said there would be some grading issues. Brian said the Department of Public Works (DPW) would be able to assist with grading. The completed court would be sixty feet by twelve feet. There would be a walk to the bathrooms, but the Township could place a port-a-potty on that side of the Park near the Field of Dreams. Judy moved to approve this project and to send a letter to the Township Committee recommending approval of Ethan's proposed project and requesting grading assistance by the DPW with a copy of the letter sent to Director of Public Works Jay Trstensky. The letter will ask the Committee to schedule this item on the next Township Committee meeting agenda. Tim seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion. Members asked Ethan to stake the area in question and mark it with "Caution" tape. Ethan thanked the Commission for its support.

SILVER AWARD CANDIDATES FROM TROOP 80357 - PROPOSED PICNIC TABLES AND PLAYGROUND EXPANSION AT DILTS PARK

Four members of Girl Scout Troop 80357 along with Leader Kim Gillespie described their plan to expand the playground at the Dilts Park and build two picnic tables as their Silver Award project, a group project. They said existing shade trees in that area may need to be removed if diseased. They are close to the expanded playground area, and it would be difficult for a mower to move between the trees and the railroad ties bordering the playground. The scouts showed a sketch of the area to be expanded by about eight feet. The existing railroad ties in that area must be removed and replaced. Brian thought the DPW could assist with removal of the ties and perhaps could repurpose them. The new ties must be anchored to the ground. Members discussed the need for mulch in this newly expanded area and perhaps on the existing

playground as well, if needed. The scouts calculated that approximately five yards of mulch (\$125) would be needed for the expanded area and also eight replacement railroad ties (\$160). They said the tables will be constructed with a wood frame and composite top and seats. Niece Lumber will donate the composite material and perhaps other materials as well. The Troop will solicit remaining materials from local stores. Brian moved to approve this project and to assist by paying for the mulch for the new section and new railroad ties with Recreation funds and to send a letter to the Township Committee recommending approval of the Troop's proposed project, requesting inspection and possible removal of the trees and stumps in the immediate vicinity, and requesting assistance by the DPW with a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Trstensky. The trees are smaller than the diseased trees already removed elsewhere at the Park, and the DPW may be able to remove them in-house. The letter will ask the Committee to schedule this item on the next Township Committee meeting agenda. Members asked the scouts to stake the area in question and mark it with "Caution" tape. The Troop members and Ms. Gillespie thanked the Commission for its support.

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE VINCENT COLALILLO – PROPOSED EXERCISE STATIONS AT DILTS PARK

Brian said the Township's insurance company denied the proposed project by Vincent Colalillo to construct exercise stations at the Dilts Park. He said Vincent now proposes to construct a new fire pit and benches near the pond.

REPORTS:

Teens – There was no teen report. Brian said he will email the Commission's teen representatives.

DTS BOE – Linda said the summer maintenance and repair projects were completed at Delaware Township School. The School is working out some kinks with the new security entrance. Employing a full-time safety officer at the School is still under discussion. The School cut one bus route resulting in slightly longer rides. Linda said she will not run for the School Board when her term expires 12/31/19.

DTAA

Tim reported that there is record soccer enrollment this year. The renovated soccer field has a grub infestation. The new scoreboard for the Field of Dreams will be dedicated on the Opening Day of Baseball and Softball season. It will be dedicated in memory of Jerry Hudzik who chaired the efforts to construct the Field of Dreams.

OPEN SPACE

Steve said there was nothing new to report from the Open Space Committee.

FALL FIREWORKS

The Fall Fireworks picnicking and fireworks event was an overwhelming success. Many residents have complimented the display. There was a problem with the test shot which was fired earlier than expected in the evening and scared nearby horses. There was a complaint that the display disrupted bird flight patterns, and one cat was frightened. Brian Stritzki flew his

airplane over the Park with smoke trails, and it was quite exciting. Local fire companies assisted tremendously.

FISHING DERBY – SEPTEMBER 28

Tim said the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company will blow the surface of the Copelands' pond, site of the Fishing Derby on September 28, with its hoses to remove duckweed. Skimmers operated from canoes might be needed on the morning of the event. The cost for the fish and permit is \$1,200. Skip Opdyke of Skip's Outdoors will donate prizes. Boy Scouts may help with parking. A port-a-potty will be provided. Garbage cans and caution tape are needed from the DPW. Insurance will be arranged with a Certificate of Insurance sent to the Copelands. A megaphone is needed and a table for completion of registrations and waivers. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with poles in the water at 9 a.m. until Noon.

ADULT AND TEEN RECREATION – The Board of Education approved use of school facilities for adult and teen indoor recreation from October 1st to the end of the school year. Waivers will be required from each participant. As agreed to at the July 1st meeting, participants must be aged thirteen (13) and older.

PLANT SWAP

Jes Stahl arranged for a Plant Swap at the Sergeantsville Farmers' Market on October 5th.

REVIEW OF RECREATION ELEMENT OF MASTER PLAN

Members agreed to meet on October 7th at 7 p.m. to review the Recreation Element of the Master Plan prior to regular agenda items.

RECREATION COMMISSION BUDGET – YEAR –TO-DATE

Julie received information from Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel with Commission expenses year-to-date. She will send a report.

GREAT CRATE RACE

Steve said Race revenues exceeded costs for this event. Everything went well. There was no program book, but sponsors seemed satisfied with the recognition they received. There will be a crate test day and swap prior to next year's event. Also the committee will solicit donations of crates from prior participants who are no longer using them. Next year in-kind sponsors will be added to the tee-shirts. The shirts did not all sell. Previous years' shirts are sold at a discount the following year.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Members will discuss the Summer Recreation Program at the next meeting once the final numbers are known.

MINI GOLF AT PINE CREEK

Mini Golf at Pine Creek took place in July, but it is not known how many residents took advantage of the discounted mini-golf prices.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS – There were no applications for the Commission to review and approve.

COMMITTEES:

Community Block Party – October 5, 2019 in Sergeantsville – 4 to 8 p.m. Judy prepared a letter to Hunterdon County requesting permission to close the portion of Rt. 604 between the blinking traffic light and Rittenhouse Road. The port-a-potty and band have been reserved. The Fire Company will grill food, and people can bring a picnic supper. The Bagel Barn may be selling gelatto or the Kona ice truck may come. Members agreed that activities for children are needed in addition to the scheduled face painting. Tim will contact the Girl Scouts for assistance.

Holiday Decorating Contest – December 16, 2019 – Final Judging (December 15 if weather conditions on December 16 warrant.)

OLD BUSINESS

Dilts Farm Park – Charlie Herman joined the meeting. He said Eagle Scout Candidate Vincent Colalillo will also be mapping and marking the trails at the Dilts Park in addition to building new benches and a fire pit by the pond. He will also erect a new Park sign paid by the Township. Members described the expansion of the playground area with picnic tables proposed by Girl Scout Troop 80357. Trees in that vicinity may need to be removed. Charlie thought those trees might be treated instead of being removed.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim described a possible campout and bonfire at the Dilts Park in the spring. Discussion will continue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Next Meeting – **Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**