

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – November 1, 2021
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, Erin Buchanan, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl, Brian Sulewski
Absent: Joe Benincasa, Rebecca Burns, Charles Herman, Tyler Kadezebek, Heather Opdyke, Linda Uby

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of October 4, 2021 – Tim moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 4, 2021, Jes seconded motion, and with a correction to the minutes, members present approved the minutes.

REPORTS

Teen Report - Tyler reported by text message that he plans another hike this fall and a gingerbread decorating event. Members supported both ideas. Judy said she was at the Dilts Park recently, and Tyler was weeding around the batting cage. Members agreed he is doing a great job as the Teen liaison.

Board of Education – Jes reported that the School celebrated a ribbon cutting event for the DTS Learning Garden. The next strategic planning meeting will be November 15th. At the last meeting participants identified the School's strengths and weaknesses. After these sessions conclude, the Board will make appropriate decisions.

DTAA – Erin said she will serve as the DTAA Liaison. Basketball registration is underway. Fall softball has concluded. Soccer will conclude in two weeks. Soccer was cancelled this past weekend due to saturated fields.

Open Space – Steve said there are currently no ongoing open space applications. The Township Committee is continuing the search for an Open Space Coordinator.

Steve said there is a Township referendum on the ballot on November 2nd to determine whether one cent of the current six cent open space up to \$80,000 may be used for Township recreational facility improvements. Brian said the Recreation Commission will have a say in how the money would be spent. Tim said the Township does not have to use the full amount each year. Jes said the money could be used to buy flood prone properties with FEMA paying the bulk of the cost.

Green Team – Jes said this Committee met last week to plan an Earth Day celebration, possibly on April 14, 2022. The Township is working on bronze level certification with Sustainable New Jersey. The Township could then apply for grant funds for projects. The School may install solar panels where the roof needs to be replaced. The School is undergoing an energy audit right now.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS

Dilts Park Facility Use Application – None

Recreation Tennis

Brian said the Township Committee did not approve the instructional recreational Tennis program as proposed with Brant Switzler as a Township employee. Brant told Brian he will do an instructional program as a community member. Over the past few weekends he has voluntarily been teaching children and adults at the Park. He would like to return in the spring. Tim said he saw a lot of kids at tennis who do not do other sports. There is a lot of interest in the program. Steve said it is probably best to use Brant as an independent contractor. He would provide insurance, similar to the bounce house operator. A spring program will be discussed.

PARK PLANNER AND DILTS PARK UPDATES

Brian said that per Charlie the Township Committee will meet in January with a park planner from the Township's engineering firm, Colliers Engineering. Steve said the planner should review all Township park properties and develop a Master Plan for their developments. Judy thought the Commission should walk the Dilts Park with the planner as part of the process. Tim suggested the Recreation Commission sponsor a contest to name the Township owned properties on Lower Ferry Road and on Rt.529 in Rosemont. He will explore that idea.

Brian said that the tennis courts will be ground and resurfaced in the spring.

COMMITTEES:

Plant Swap – Jes Stahl said the Swap on October 16th went well. The same people come in the fall as in the spring. Ruth Mummey donated hydrangea cuttings. Jes said people told her they did not have enough advance notice about the event. Members discussed how to better get the word out on events. Brian suggested purchasing a sandwich board to post at the Township Building. The exterior sign at the Building does not seem to be in use. Jes suggested an annual recreation calendar be mailed to residents similar to the DTS PiE annual flyers.

Adult and Teen Recreation at DTS – Members did not know whether adults are attending, but the teens are playing on Friday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. Jes will ask that the teen nights be included in the next DTS weekly newsletter.

Holiday Decorating Contest – Members agreed to judge the holiday decorating contest on Monday, December 13th at 7 p.m. In the case of inclement weather forecast for that day, it will instead be Sunday, December 12th. They discussed gift certificate prizes and agreed as follows: \$125 Grand Prize to the Sergeantsville Inn, \$100 First Place to Skip's Outdoors, \$75 Second Place to Maria Rosa, and Third Place \$50 to the Bagel Barn for a total of \$350.00. The notice in the Bridge will ask residents to register via the Commission's gmail address. It will state that registrants' addresses will be posted on the Township website so that other residents can take a tour themselves. Winners will also be posted. The notice will state that a Grand Prize winner must wait three years before again winning a Grant Prize, but will be eligible for the other prize categories. Only amateur displays are eligible.

OLD BUSINESS – none

SEASONAL ICE SKATING RINK

Members agreed to install the seasonal ice skating rink at the Dilts Park on the LBL outfield. They will discuss a Family Skate Night for 2022.

NEW BUSINESS – Brian said DTAA has asked the Commission to consider co-sponsoring a fund raising event at the Dilts Park in June. Tickets will include dinner and beer or wine. There will also be a cornhole tournament with a \$20 registration fee. The entry fees will be divided 50/50 between DTAA and the winner.

Members discussed the various licenses DTAA would have to obtain, and the Township Committee must approve this use. The Recreation Commission will request a waiver of the alcohol prohibition at the Dilts Park. Members were supportive of the idea. They recommended that DTAA soon attend a Township Committee meeting to discuss its plans and obtain approval for this use of the Park.

TREE LIGHTING EVENT AND HOLIDAY PARADE AT THE SERGEANTSVILLE GREEN DECEMBER 4th – Snow Date December 5th

Members discussed a tree lighting event at the Sergeantsville Green on December 4th beginning at 5 p.m. (Snow Date December 5th) The DTS chorus will perform. The evergreen tree on the Green will be lit. Families will be asked to bring one home-made ornament per family for the tree. Mayor James Waltman suggested the Recreation Commission provide light refreshments. He is also providing a memorial bench with an inscription honoring the late Josh Petrucelli.

Tiffany Simone volunteered to coordinate a holiday parade with decorated tractors, hay wagons, and other vehicles. She already has four interested farmers. Members really liked the idea. The parade would start at DTS. The vehicles would drive west on Rosemont-Ringoes Road, pass the Sergeantsville Green, turn onto Sergeantsville Road to the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company lot, then park at the rear of the Green. Santa may ride on the last vehicle.

Members discussed road closures and lighting.

This information will be shared via social media, the Bridge, and the DTS Newsletter.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments or questions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 13, 2021 at **7:00 p.m.** for Holiday Decorating Judging.