

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – February 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, Julie Luster-Roell, Heather Opdyke, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry
Absent: Rebecca Burns, Tim Drew, Charles Herman

Introductions

Tyler Kadezabek, a student at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, and Gabriella Dembeski, a middle school student at Delaware Township School, introduced themselves and expressed an interest in assisting the Recreation Commission with activities geared toward teenagers and pre-teenagers, respectively.

Tyler outlined some activities that he thought might be of interest including a charity 5K run, horseback riding lessons, a movie night and bonfire at the Dilts Farm Park, a charter fishing trip, and a hiking trip. When asked how he would communicate with Delaware Township teens, he said he will get an email contact list from Delaware Township School.

Gabby outlined some activities that she thought might be of interest including a family charity soccer or softball game and a hiking trip with a volunteer nature guide. She would also use an email list from DTS for contacts.

Brian said the events do not have to be fundraisers. He will talk to them about possible activities. Julie said the Commission can support events financially.

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of January 4, 2021 – Steve moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2021, Linda seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes with abstentions by Julie and Heather.

Memorial Bench at the Dilts Farm Park

Susan Ireland would like to donate a bench at the Park in memory of her husband. Members agreed that she should submit a proposed location and bench materials for review.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS – Soccer Shots requested use of space at the Park for soccer clinics. Members agreed that as a commercial venture it should provide insurance and pay a field use fee.

Pickle Ball/Basketball/Tennis Courts

Joe reached out to contractors for an estimate on the cost to construct pickle ball courts and make repairs to or newly construct basketball and tennis courts. He thought there may be an opportunity to fund the projects with Township money and private sponsorship. Steve thought it would be too confusing to overlay a tennis courts with pickle ball court lines. A dedicated court would be preferable. Tim thought there should be a comprehensive plan to construct a pickle ball court(s) and make repairs to the other courts. Brian said filling the cracks is a bandaid approach. Judy said the projected costs exceed the bid limit, so project specifications would have to be developed and the work advertised for public bidding. Brian said DTAA had discussed construction of a pole barn for indoor activities in the approximate location of the existing courts that would be newly constructed elsewhere at the Park. Julie described a grant program from Robert Wood Johnson that assists with the development and construction of accessible playgrounds. Linda thought a comprehensive review of the Park is needed to plan for future improvements. There could be a public meeting to discuss Park needs and improvements. More information is needed about underground installations at the Park including the exact septic location and a possible drainage system near the Pavilion. There are slopes and wet areas at the Park. Tim said he will contact Mayor Waltman about this discussion.

In the meantime, members agreed that Julie could move forward with getting information about an inclusive playground.

REPORTS

Teens – Members agreed they liked the information presented by Tyler and Gabby. Brian will talk with them about a first easy event.

DTS Board of Education – Heather reported that half-days will continue to April 1st. School facilities remain closed to non-school activities.

DTAA – Opening Day will be April 24th. Softball signup has begun with baseball and soccer signups to start soon. Steve thought the scoreboard dedication could take place on Opening Day.

Open Space – Steve said the Township Committee needs more time to complete its review of the Open Space Maintenance Plan. Tree maintenance funding is needed. Hunterdon County has an estimated \$26,000 for use on Township open space maintenance and improvements. Brian suggested an extension of the walking trail at the Park onto the former Reimer Farm. Joe asked whether the funds could be used to pay for a professional planner to lay out new Park improvements. Steve will check. He thought the Commission should have input on how maintenance funds are spent.

COMMITTEES:

Egg Hunt – Tim suggested a Bunny Drive-by Event in place of the Egg Hunt. The route could be provided in advance to residents. He will talk to the SVFC about possible use of a fire truck for this event and talk to Julie.

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.

Summer Recreation – Brian will reach out to Maegan Harrington to see what planning is needed for a possible program this summer. It will be dependent on Covid 19 regulations.

Campout and Bonfire – Will be discussed.

Fishing Derby – Will be discussed.

Great Crate Race – July 4th - Will be discussed.

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.

OLD BUSINESS –

Ice Rink – Steve said the ice skating rink will be erected on the LBL infield at the Dilts Park when conditions permit.

2021 Budget

Brian said he submitted a 2021 budget request of \$23,000. He thought the unspent 2020 funds were transferred to the Recreation Trust.

NEW BUSINESS –

Members discussed an event with local food trucks when Covid restrictions are lifted.

Judy thought a sledding hill somewhere at the Park should be included in the Park plan the Commission is discussing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom