

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – January 10, 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 6, 2022.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Joe Benincasa, Erin Buchanan, Tyler Kadezabek, Heather Opdyke, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry
Absent: Rebecca Burns, Charles Herman

Approval of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary

Members unanimously agreed to select Brian Sulewski to serve as Chairperson, Steve Smotrich as Vice Chairperson, and Judy Allen to serve as Secretary in 2022.

ANNUAL NOTICE

Members reviewed the following 2022 Annual Notice Resolution.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL NOTICE RESOLUTION #2022-01

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 231 P.L. 1975) provides for the giving of annual notice by public bodies of the time and location of the regular meetings of such public body to be held during the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 231 P.L. 1975) hereinafter referred to as the Act, authorizes a public body to make certain other determinations and take certain other actions in conformance therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Recreation Commission of the Township of Delaware, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Regular meetings of this Commission shall be held as follows during the 2022 calendar year at 7:30 p.m. at the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Rd., (Cty. Rt. 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey 08557 or via ZOOM with meeting link information provided on the Township bulletin board and website prior to meeting:

On the first Monday of each month except the July 4, 2022 meeting will be held on June 27, 2022, the September 5, 2022 meeting shall be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, and the December 5, 2022 meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. followed by a car tour of houses registered for the Holiday Decorating Contest for final judging. In the event of inclement weather forecast for December 12th, that meeting will take place instead on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

2. The following newspapers are hereby designated as the newspapers to receive any and all notice required or permitted to be given under the Act including but not limited to Annual Notice and 48 Hour Notice:

- a. The Hunterdon County Democrat which is the official newspaper of the public body; and
- b. The Trenton Times and the Star Ledger which are hereby determined to be the other newspapers that will have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the area of jurisdiction of its meetings.

3. Copies of the Resolution, any revisions or modifications thereof, certified to be true copies by the Secretary of this Board, shall be disseminated and distributed as required by the Act, as follows:

- a. Posted and maintained throughout the 2022 calendar year on the bulletin board at the Delaware Township Municipal Building;
- b. Sent via Fax Transmission to the above listed newspapers;
- c. Filed with the Clerk of this municipality; and
- d. Mailed to such other person as may be entitled thereto under the terms of the Act and this Resolution.

4. Pursuant to Section 14 of this Act, the Clerk of this municipality is thereby authorized and directed to mail such notice as may be required and authorized under the Act to any person requesting the same provided that person has first complied with the following terms and conditions:

- a. Any and all requests for notice under the Act shall be made in writing either by letter or by signing a request list to be maintained in the office of the Clerk;
- and
- b. Any person requesting such notice other than the news media which is expressly excluded from payment of any fee thereunder, shall pay to the Township of Delaware a fee of \$3.00 which said sum is hereby determined to be a reasonable sum, the amount of which is calculated solely to reimburse this Township for the costs incurred in providing the said notice; including but not limited to printing, photocopying costs, clerical time, and postage.

ATTEST:

Brian Sulewski, Chairperson
January 10, 2022

Judith A. Allen,
Recreation Commission Secretary
January 10, 2022

Brian moved to approve the 2022 Annual Notice Resolution, Jes seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved Resolution 2022-01.

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of December 13, 2021 – Steve moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 13, 2021, Joe seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes with an abstention by Linda.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Grand Prize – The Lubitz Family
First Place - The Sager Family
Second Place – The Kornberger Family
Third Place - Jennifer and Susan McCann

REPORTS

Teens – Tyler said he would like to plan a ski trip for high school and middle school students. Members agreed participants would pay for related expenses at a group rate offered by the ski facility and provide their own transportation with parent chaperones. The Recreation Commission can provide snacks. Tyler will pick a date soon after getting group rates and let Brian and Judy know for promoting on social media and the Township website.

Judy said West Hunterdon Lanes has been sold and will close in April. A bowling night might be a fun activity.

DTS Board of Education – Heather reported the Board reorganized for 2022. She is the Recreation Commission Liaison, and Jes is the Alternate Recreation Commission Liaison. She outlined the Covid precautions the School is taking. Youth sports continue, but recreational adult and teen sports have been postponed until February depending on whether the health level has dropped from the current “red” to “orange”. In addition, custodial staffing shortages make it difficult to ready the cafeteria for adult sports following After-Care, and there will be no mixing of adults (unmasked) and DTAA players (masked) in the gym. Erin said a point person is needed for each adult activity for communications with the school. She said the main priority is keeping students in school. Brian said the Commission will wait to hear from the school before resuming adult sports.

DTAA – Erin said Baseball and Softball Opening Day will be held on April 30. Basketball is ongoing. The Spring fundraiser is looking good. She said DTAA wants to redo fields at the Dilts Farm Park. The Recreation Commission, DTAA and the Township Committee have to come together to use the funds from the Open Space tax approved at the November referendum to make repairs. The Snack Shack needs major repairs to open.

Brian said DTAA has posted Save the Date – May 21st for the Spring Fundraiser at the Dilts Park. The Commission supports the event, but the Township Committee has not yet approved it. Members agreed DTAA should receive Committee approval, then come to the Commission for approval.

Erin asked what is the status of the Park Planner. Brian understood that Colliers Engineering will provide a planner, but that has not been confirmed. Jes said nothing was mentioned about a

planner at the Township's Reorganization meeting. Brian said Director of Public Works Jay Trstensky should source the bids to repair the basketball and tennis courts. One quote he received was quite high. Brian sent him quotes for court repairs and a new pickle ball court provided through Joe who also suggested a park planner. The Committee appears to be relying on a park planner. Jes offered to send an email requesting that a park planner discussion be scheduled on the January 19th Committee agenda and that the Committee allow the Commission to hire a park planner using up to \$15,000 in funds from the Open Space tax approved by voters in the November referendum. Tim moved to ask the Township Committee to provide up to \$15,000 from the Open Space tax to prepare a Recreational Facilities Plan. Erin seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved it. Jes will send the request. She asked everyone to attend that meeting via Zoom.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION #2022-02

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware Township Recreation Commission that it hereby requests the Delaware Township Committee to provide the Recreation Commission with \$15,000 from the Open Space Tax as approved by voters of the November 2022 referendum to procure a Park Planer for the creation of the Delaware Township Recreational Facilities Plan.

Brian Sulewski, Chairperson

Attest: Judith A. Allen, Secretary
January 10, 2022

Joe said he had to leave the meeting, but he noticed a Yankees baseball trip later in the agenda. He offered to be a point person making these arrangements with Yankee management. He said he could also work on a trip to a Somerset Patriots game.

Open Space – Steve said the Township Committee hired Tiffany Crivelli to be the Open Space Coordinator. There are no pending applications

Green Team - Jes said there will be an Earth Day celebration on April 14th. The entire community will be invited to participate.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS – No applications were received this month.

COMMITTEES:

Egg Hunt – Erin offered to chair this event. Members agreed on April 9th at 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park for the Egg Hunt.

Instructional Tennis – Brian will check with Brant Switzler to see whether he is still interested in running this program. If so, the Commission will work with the Township Committee to work out the details. Erin suggested it might be run through DTAA.

Yard Sale – Judy said the yard sales are held on the third Saturdays in May and September (per advertising signs), so this year they will be on May 21st and September 17th.

Plant Swap – Jes Stahl said the Plant Swaps will be on May 22nd and October 15, both from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park.

Campout and Bonfire – This possible event will be explored.

Fishing Derby – Tim said he will speak with the fish supplier and the Copeland Family to select a date.

Great Crate Race – Steve hoped this event will resume on July 4th. Brian suggested some advance promotion of this event and a May event for test trials and crate swaps.

Summer Recreation – Brian will reach out to Maegan Harrington to see what planning is needed for a Summer Recreation Program this summer and invite her to the next meeting. Heather will check on possible construction at the school this summer.

Scavenger Hunt – Brian will speak with Rebecca about this activity, possibly this summer.

Fall Fun Fireworks – September 10th – Will be discussed.

Community Day/Block Party – October 1st - Will be discussed.

Halloween Activity – Will be discussed.

Holiday Decorating Contest/Holiday Lighting – December 3rd (Rain/snow date December 4th) - Will be discussed. Judy will send a Thank You to Mario Russo, aka Santa. Mrs. Claus may join Santa this year.

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

Chili Cook-Off – Jes said she is still researching this event.

Sports Equipment Swap – Jes suggested holding sports equipment swaps. Members agreed to hold them on March 26th and August 20th from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park.

Kite Festival – August 20th at 11 a.m. following the Equipment Swap – Will be discussed.

Bowling Event – Members may consider a bowling event before West Hunterdon Lanes closes.

2022 RECREATION CALENDAR AND MARCH NEWSLETTER

Several dates were finalized tonight. Judy will distribute a draft newsletter article for review.

OLD BUSINESS –

Adults Recreation at DTS – on hold until health level drops to orange.

Teen Recreation at DTS – This activity is well attended, but no parents have stepped up to chaperone these Friday events. Parents or a paid supervisor must oversee this activity. Tim outlined the numerous problems. Members agreed to suspend this activity until further notice

until the health level has dropped to orange and parents have volunteered to oversee it. Without adult supervision, this activity can not continue.

Ice Rink – Steve said he and his team will try to get the skating rink built soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Property Naming Contest – A contest to select names for Township owned properties (Rosemont and Lower Ferry Road) will be notified to the Township Committee and discussed.

2022 Budget Review

Members reviewed a summary of 2021 expenses that Steve summarized using information from Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel. The year started with a \$17,976 surplus. The Township Committee budgeted \$15,000 in 2021 for Recreation. The Commission had requested \$23,000. Program expenses totaled \$12,819 leaving an ending balance of \$20,157. (\$20,321 per Diane). Some activities did not run due to Covid, but the Commission hopes to resume all activities and add new ones in 2022. He recommended requesting \$23,000 for 2022. He will write up a draft budget request for review at the next meeting.

Yankees Baseball Trip

Steve said he received an email from the Yankees Event Coordinator with game dates and prices. Jes asked whether a bus could be provided. Brian will call for a bus price. Steve will talk to Joe about a baseball trip.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. In Person or via Zoom