

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – January 29, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Erin Buchanan, Johnny Cane, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl, Brian Sulewski, Sarah Waverka

Notice Requirement

Notice of this meeting was properly provided.

Approval of Minutes from the January 8 Meeting

Steve moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2024, Sarah seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the minutes as written.

2024 Proposed Budget

Members reviewed the proposed 2024 budget summary as discussed at the last meeting and finalized by Jes. The total amount is \$38,650. Tim moved to submit this request to the Township Committee, Erin seconded the motion, and members present unanimously approved the motion.

Teen Paintball Event

Johnny Cane reported on a proposed paintball event for Delaware Township School 7th and 8th graders. The company he contacted said it could bring the event to the Dilts Farm Park. Groups of twenty (ten versus ten) would play for five to seven minutes, then rotate to the next group of twenty. Play could be on the back soccer field. The company recommended that a waiver be obtained from participants. No outside equipment is permitted. Members agreed that Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m. would be a good date/time. Snacks will be provided. Johnny will reach out to the company.

Future teen events may include a campout and hike. Members thanked Johnny for his work.

Chili Bowl and Bingo – February 3 – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the SVFC

Members discussed the format for the evening. Setup will be at 5 p.m. This event is free for attendees and is for adults 21 years and older only.

Egg Hunt (11 a.m.) and Kite Fest (Noon) – April 23 at the Dilts Farm Park

This event is rain or shine. The Egg Hunt with Bunny is open to 3 year olds through 5th graders. DTAA will be selling breakfast sandwiches, and 8th graders will be selling baked goods to raise funds for their Promotion Dance. Girl Scouts will fill the eggs – date and time to be determined. Pre-filled eggs were too expensive. Volunteers are needed to hide the eggs. The Kite Fest will take place on two soccer fields after the Egg Hunt. Various prizes will be awarded. DTAA will try to schedule sport practices around these activities.

Fishing Derby – Date Changed to May 11th at the Copeland Pond

The Fishing Derby date has been changed to May 11th due to a conflict with a DTS-PIE event.

Recreation Commission Branding

Members will review a few optional designs at the March 2024 meeting.

Yoga and Tai Chi Classes

These activities will be discussed at a future meeting.

CPR Training

Jes said the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad offers CPR training. This will be a future opportunity.

T-Mobile Hometown Grant

This grant is awarded quarterly. It applies to projects ready to break ground, so detailed advance planning and design are needed with project cost estimates. A survey will be needed. Erin said her husband Seth may be able to assist with the survey.

Locked Storage and Sign-Out System for Recreation Equipment

Jes prepared a sign-out form for borrowers to complete when using Recreation Commission equipment. A lock will be placed at the entrance to the third-floor storage area.

Welcome Packages for New Residents

Members discussed information that may be included in a New Resident welcome package, including Right to Farm, DTS, HCRHS, SVFC, Township website, Recreation calendar, etc. Jes will check with municipal employees and committee chairs to see if they want to add information to the package.

Rubber Duck Race

Members agreed that rubber ducks could be released from the green iron bridge on Lower Creek Road. A port-a-potty will be provided. Roadside parking will be coordinated with the DT Police Department. This event will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Approval of Dilts Park Applications – none received.

Liaison Reports

Township Committee – No update

DTS Board of Education – Jes said that the BOE will be extending the pre-school program for 3, 4 and 5 years olds to three groups from two with funding assistance by the State for this program.

DTAA – Erin said Opening Day for DTAA spring sports will be April 13th, and Closing Day will be June 15th. Field clean-up will be the previous weekend. DTAA donates \$500 toward the 8th Grade dance. In return, 8th graders will be helping with the field clean-up. The Sports Gear Swap will be held at Opening Day and will hopefully include Pedals for Progress.

Open Space – Steve said the \$2,000 grant project to map trails and trail facilities in the Township is underway. There will be a QR code for interested hikers to access information. The Township

website description for the Recreation Commission could then be expanded to “Parks and Recreation” to encompass these additional recreation opportunities.

Steve said that in reviewing Dilts Farm Park regulations he noticed that horseback riding is permitted in certain areas, although they are not specifically identified. Jan Weber said riders from about six families are respectful of the fields. She said the main issue is unleashed dogs chasing horses.

Steve said hunting is permitted in a designated area by Township permit. Members questioned whether this small area of the Dilts Farm Park should continue to be hunted seasonally and agreed that it is probably not worth it.

Steve said the Township-owned property on Lower Ferry Road is restricted to future affordable housing.

New Business

Brian said Brendan Burns offered to help with a boys’ basketball program/clinic, perhaps one night per week in the summer and fall for 4th through 8th graders to prepare them for winter team play. Members agreed that, until the basketball court at the Dilts Farm Park is repaired, this program should run at DTS. The Recreation Commission could co-sponsor it.

Meeting Opened to the Public

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Judith A. Allen, Secretary

Next Meeting: March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.