

## Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – March 4, 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, Sarah Waverka, Linda Ubry

### Notice Requirement

Notice of this meeting was properly provided.

### Eagle Scout Candidate Zach Gillespie – Project at Dilts Farm Park

Eagle Scout Candidate Zach Gillespie updated members on his proposed Eagle Scout project – a Gaga Court at the Dilts Farm Park. He distributed a picture of the court with construction details and equipment needs with projected costs. The location will be near the small soccer field and playground. He thought construction would take two or three weekends. He will solicit material and monetary donations once all Scout Council approvals have been finalized. Members agreed he could place a Gaga donations can at the Egg Hunt. Members thanked Zach for this project.

### Approval of Minutes from the January 29 Meeting

Steve moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 29, 2024, Erin seconded the motion, and members approved the minutes as written with one abstention by Linda.

### Financial Report

Steve reviewed the 2023 Summary of Income/Expenses. He included the 2023 \$7,500 contribution from Apple TV earmarked for DTAA and the Township's DTAA \$5,000 stipend. The year 2023 began with a surplus of \$4,806 and ended with an estimated \$3,103 surplus, not including the Rediscover Hunterdon grant of \$5,000. Members reviewed 2023 expenses. Port-a-potties for several events were donated by NJ Event Services. Vollers donated a light tower.

### Amazon Business Account for the Township

Jes said the Township has opened an Amazon business account. The purchasing process will be determined.

### Teen Events

#### Paintball:

Johnny Cane updated members on the proposed 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Paintball event at the Dilts Farm Park on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 p.m., rain or shine, on the Makara field. The staff will set up at 10 a.m. and will bring all equipment including body armor. The cost depends on the number of participants – either \$50 or \$60 per person. Two teams of ten players will compete, alternating in five to seven minute intervals. Johnny will send out signup and waiver forms with a due date to respond and pay in advance of the 4<sup>th</sup>. He said River Valley Realtors will donate water bottles. Members agreed to subsidize this event, reducing the cost to participants to \$40 each. Advance notice of this event will be posted at the Park.

### Hike:

Johnny discussed a proposed teen hike for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall, location to be determined.

In discussing possible hiking trails, Steve distributed information on the proposed new heading “Parks and Recreation” on the Township website. There will be a link to “Public Access Open Spaces” in the Township. Twenty-four locations are listed along with facts such as addresses, parking, highlights, and brief descriptions. This map trail and trail facilities project was funded by a grant.

### Campout:

Johnny discussed a proposed teen campout and bonfire in the fall at the Dilts Farm Park. Parent chaperones will be required. Members discussed some connected activities, including food, water, firepit permit, police drive-throughs, permission to keep the Park open after dusk, etc.

Members thanked Johnny for his work.

### Egg Hunt (11 a.m.) and Kite Fest (11:30 a.m.) – April 23 at the Dilts Farm Park

Jes purchased 4,000 pieces of candy for the eggs and twelve kites for prizes that can be used at the Kite Fest immediately following the Hunt. Tim purchased a new bunny costume. Girl Scouts will fill eggs on March 26th at 3:30 p.m. at Delaware Township School. Judy and Johnny will assist that day.

Volunteers will hide eggs at the Park beginning at 9:15 a.m. The bunny will arrive at 10:45 a.m.

DTAA will be selling breakfast sandwiches, and 8th graders will be selling baked goods to raise funds for their Promotion Dance. There will also be a donation can for the Dance. Help is needed from DPW to open the bathrooms (not usually opened until April), provide trash/recycling cans, and set up barricades by the snack shack parking lot.

### Rubber Duck Race – April 20 at 10 a.m.

There will be a test run drop prior to this event. There will be a duck retrieval location. Parking signs along Lower Creek Road will be needed.

### Branding for Recreation

Members reviewed several options for a Recreation Commission logo and selected Options 14 and 15. Tim will research tee-shirts.

### Sign-out System for Recreation Equipment

Jes is researching installation of a lock on the Recreation Commission equipment storage area.

### Clean Out Storage Area

Available members will meet to clean and straighten the Recreation Commission storage area.

### New Resident Welcome Packages

Jes reached out to Township boards/committees/commissions and other Township organizations requesting interest about information to include in a new resident welcome package. She

suggested, and members agreed, that a welcome card could be sent to new residents and include directions to a Township website link that will include this information. Township Assessor Michelle Trivigno will periodically provide names of new property owners.

Township Committee Special Meeting re: Dilts Farm Park March 6 at 7 p.m. at SVFC

The Township Committee will hold a special public meeting on March 6 at 7 p.m. at the SVFC. There will be a Park Plan presentation by the Township's park planner with a public comment session.

Dilts Farm Park Applications – none

Correspondence

Members reviewed a letter dated 1/25/24 from Janet Weber that was referenced at the 2/12/24 Township Committee meeting. Ms. Weber objected to the purchase by the Commission of a temporary pickleball net for use on the tennis courts at the Dilts Farm Park and referenced Mayor James Waltman's comments in the past that noise abatement would be a part of any pickleball plan. She said the Commission's action overrode the Committee's commitments and denied opportunities for the public to provide input into the Park plans. Members stated their mission is to provide for the good of the community and objected to the letter's content. The temporary net was intended to determine noise levels generated by pickleball. Members agreed that a written response from the Commission is needed, and Sarah will prepare that letter.

Liaison Reports

Township Committee – The Township Committee hired a new Director of Public Works.

DTS Board of Education – Jes said the Board is working on the new playground facility and the new budget.

DTAA – Erin said DTAA is seeking a new Treasurer and a new Soccer Co-Commissioner. It is planning a comedy night on May 3. The Spirit Wear shop is open. There will be a summer soccer camp and a field hockey camp at the Dilts Farm Park. Field Cleanup Day, a sports equipment swap, and bicycle donation opportunity will be on April 6. There will be fundraising events at Chipolte on May 1 and a future pickleball tournament.

Open Space – No report.

Fishing Derby – Date Changed to May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Copeland Pond (Rain Date May 12<sup>th</sup>)

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

Yard Sale – May 11th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Rain Date May 12<sup>th</sup>)

New Business

Tim said the Friends of Delaware Township, a generous donation from Henry Amorosa, and the proposed T-Mobile Grant could fund a memorial to the late Tony Szwed at the Sergeantsville Village Green. To qualify for the Grant, the proposed project that may include a gazebo must be shovel ready. A survey of the property is needed. Members agreed to send a letter to the

Township Committee requesting it to engage the services of the Township Engineer in surveying the lot.

Meeting Opened to the Public

Jan Weber said she did not intend to insult the Recreation Commission in her letter. She respects the Commission's work. She asked who is the decision maker for the Dilts Farm Park. She said the Township Committee had stated there would be no work at the Park until the Park Planner submits a plan. She said her purpose in sending the letter was to be sure the Committee makes decisions about the Park. Members said the Park Planner will present a proposed overall plan for the future use of the Park.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Judith A. Allen, Secretary

Next Meeting: April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.