

**Byram Township Recreation Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes: July 15, 2009**

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Bill Schilling, at 7:38 pm. Flag salute and moment of silence followed.

**II. Roll Call**

- Present: Bill Schilling, John Pappalardo, Tracy Church, John Hebble, Steve Koreivo, Bob Nosenchuk, Kate Walsh, Shawn Armstrong
- Absent: Tim Connery, Charles Kranz, Colleen Ruth
- Also in Attendance: Janet Meisner, Dan Rafferty

**III. Approval of Minutes, June 2009**

- John Pappalardo made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2009 meeting with changes. Steve Koreivo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**Chamber of Commerce**

- The chamber of commerce met last Friday, 7/10/09 and discussed Byram Day. Discussion focused on raising funds for fireworks for Byram Day. There was discussion about the possibility of sending a letter to members of the Andover/Byram Chamber of Commerce to see if they would like to be involved in sponsorships to offset the cost of the fireworks. Janet will look into this.
- Taste of the Lakes will be held on 10/12/09; the venue is to be determined. Sites being considered are: Waterloo Village, The Adam Todd, and the parking lot of the Andover Fire Department. The owner of Salt is chairing the event and Joe Visceglia from the new restaurant, Timbers, is assisting. Bob Nosenchuk and Jimmy Oscovitch are also involved in the planning of the event. Parking for the event may be an issue so volunteers may be needed to assist with parking.
- There is an Antique Market on 7/26/09 at Lynne's Nissan. The Byram Township Police Department has offered their electronic sign to advertise for the event.

**Board of Education**

- We need to find out who the new superintendent of the Netcong/Stanhope schools is and set up a meeting with him or her to discuss facilities use. Kate will look into this.

**Buildings and Grounds**

- Grass at the upper soccer field is growing nicely. Grass on the football field is filling in.
- Bedding for the two playgrounds at CO Johnson Field and Riverside Park has been installed.
- Telephone poles at Riverside have been taken out and holes have been filled.

## **Byram Day**

- The committee met today and discussed fundraising. Ronetco was sent a letter on township stationery asking them to assist with funding for fireworks for Byram Day; the request was denied.
- There will not be fireworks for Byram Day this year due to lack of funding. Going forward, there are steps in place to start soliciting businesses in town for sponsorships to help offset the cost of the fireworks. This will start in November of 2009.
- John Pappalardo suggested the possibility of having a Donation Box at Byram Day so that township residents can make donations to offset the costs of Byram Day. Janet advised that this could be a possibility so long as no favors are promised to those donating money.
- The Knights of Columbus will handle the parking on Byram Day.
- Other than the lack of fireworks, planning for Byram Day is moving along.

## **Lenape Valley Municipal Alliance**

- There is a movie in the park tonight. The movie being shown is "Ice Age."
- Mount Olive Library used to pay for the rights to show the movies in the park; however, this is no longer the case as the new library director will only pay for royalties for movies shown on library premises. The LVMA will pay for royalties this year.

## **Open Space**

- Bill Schilling made a correction to the minutes from the June 2009 meeting. The change is as follows: the dam approval is for Hudson Farms Greenway not Jones Lane. Change will be made to the minutes.
- At the June open space committee meeting the board voted to release up to \$2000 to do an engineering study at Jones Lane to see how many fields can be put up there and what can be done with the land. Bill would like to see the same thing done over at Brookwood. Several people from the town worked on and applied for a grant to do work at Brookwood and will know whether or not we received the grant in September.
- Bill is unable to go to the open space committee meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and asked that someone attend in his absence. Shawn Armstrong will check his calendar and let Bill know whether or not he will be able to attend the meeting.

## **Volunteerism**

- Dan Rafferty will replace Jimmy Oscovitch on the volunteerism committee.
- Jimmy was going to contact the Sports Hall of Fame to take our proposals for Volunteer of Time, Money, Labor, etc. and Honorariums and Memorials and reformat them.
- Bob Nosenchuk will send Jimmy an e-mail to get the contact information for the people at Sports Hall of Fame and will follow up on getting our proposals reformatted.
- The target date for submission of proposals for volunteers and honorariums and memorials is Fall 2009.

### **A. Scouts**

1. Bob – No report
2. Kate – Janet and I have heard from Genevieve Pilat who will in fact be doing a theatre program for students registered in township programs this summer. Janet and Genevieve will be meeting at 9:30am on 7/16/09.

### **Sports Council**

- The council met this evening. They have 3 applications for fall ball: baseball, softball, and football.
- Football made a request to use the outfield of CO 3 to practice blocking and for callisthenic exercises. They will not be using blocking sleds on the baseball field. The sports council is honoring their request. Football agreed that if the grass gets trampled they will re-seed it, etc. Football also agreed to stay off of the grass after heavy rain, or if it is raining during practices. Shawn Armstrong will monitor field use of CO 3.
- The cheerleaders will be practicing on CO 1.
- Requests for the use of CO Field house for meetings are as follows:
  - Softball – the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month
  - Baseball – the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month
  - Soccer – the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month
  - Football – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month(note: there is a conflict in August for the baseball meeting because there is a fitness class that meets up at CO on that day. Baseball may need to meet in another location just for the month of August or they may choose to hold their meeting on another day).
- Janet will send a blast e-mail to the heads of all sports organizations reminding them of the Rutgers Safety class on 7/22.
- Janet is keeping track of who has been fingerprinted.
- The SC meeting was well attended.

### **Strategic Planning**

- The committee met tonight prior to the Recreation Committee meeting. The committee has a working copy of a projects list of all projects needing to be done on various fields, parks, etc.
- Bill had a conversation with Joe Sabatini, township manager, regarding the re-naming of Tomahawk Park. Joe was not aware that we wanted this change. Bill advised that an e-mail was sent stating this. Kate will draft a letter to the mayor and the town council advising them that the Recreation Committee voted unanimously to change the name of Tomahawk Lake Park to Mountain Heights Park.
- Bill also discussed with Joe recommendations the Recreation Committee made in October; some of which have not been completed. See attached e-mail correspondence. Number 1 was completed however numbers 2 and 3 were not. Dan Rafferty will take recommendations to the town council.
- The projects list will be consolidated to an excel file and will include a column of who would need to be responsible for getting the work done. The cost column will be removed as members of this committee are unable to estimate the cost of these projects.
- Joe needs a copy of the project list.
- The committee will need guidance as to who can and cannot complete projects on the list. Once the list is complete, a presentation will be made to Joe Sabatini and Adolf Steyh by members of the committee. Once the list is final, it will be presented to the town council.
- The basic feeling among members of the committee is that the list needs to get to the people who can get the work done and make things happen. This has been something we have been working on for 3 years with little to no progress.

#### A. Mission Statement

The committee researched mission statements from various other recreation committees and commissions and is working on writing a mission statement for Byram Rec. Once written, the committee will share the mission statement with members of the Recreation Committee for feedback. From the mission statement we can have goals that are concrete and can be accomplished. We came up with a 1 year plan of action 3 years ago and accomplished much of what was on that plan.

There was a request to put Action Plans at the end of the minutes every month; this will be done.

- Joe Sabatini requested that the minutes be out ASAP. Kate said she would try to have the minutes done for Friday.

#### **Youth Guidance**

- Donna was the liaison so we need to appoint someone else to be the liaison. Jill sends the notes out from their meetings and Tracy gets them. While Tracy is unable to attend the meetings, she can report back to the committee what she gets in the notes from Jill. There was discussion about appointing Colleen Ruth as the new liaison to Youth Guidance but Dan Rafferty is a liaison to Youth Guidance for the council and will keep the rec committee members abreast of what is going on with Youth Guidance.

- Bill Schilling appointed Colleen Ruth as a liaison to other Recreation committees.

#### **Council Liaison**

- Bill addressed Dan about our concerns with the budget for the rec committee. Bill expressed our frustration as a committee about the amount of time that was put into the budget that was submitted to the township manager and the fact that none of the changes made to the budget at the township manger's level were communicated to the rec committee prior to the council working with and then voting on the budget. Dan informed the members that there are 4 budget workshop meetings that should have been attended where concerns could have been expressed. John Pappalardo voiced that that is not where our concerns as members of the rec committee should be expressed.

- It was also brought up that the rec committee budget was cut across the board with the exception of the Senior Citizens' line item which saw an increase of \$500. Dan informed the committee that when he ran for his seat on the council that he said he would stand behind the seniors and that he would continue to do so. The increase to the seniors' line item came from the \$600 cut in Dan Rafferty's salary. The cuts to the recreation budget saved jobs in the end.

- There seems to be many issues with communication. The feeling is that a lot of time and energy was put into the budget and none of the changes were upheld. (note – the budget submitted by the rec committee saw cuts of 14.1%). Professionally, the budget should have been sent back to the recreation committee after the township manager made changes to it.

### **Recreation Director**

- Janet has spoken to Forest Lakes about using their community club for some of our programs and was told that was not a possibility as their club has scheduled events in there daily. The Cranberry Lake Community Club is not available for rental at this time and does not have heat or water during the winter months.
- Janet will contact someone at Lake Lackawanna to inquire about using their facility for some of our programs.
- Steve Koreivo said that there is a possibility of using the rooms at Results Fitness for some of our programs.

### **V. Other Business**

- The question was posed as to whether or not we should leave Adolf Steyh on the Recreation Committee agenda. It was decided that he would be removed from the monthly agenda as we have John Hebble on the committee who works for DPW and Janet Meisner, Recreation Director, who have daily contact with Adolf. Adolf will be asked to come to recreation meetings as needed.
- At this point, Adolf is looking into estimates for backstops and fences.
- It was stated by Janet that a man by the name of Fiffe is the interim superintendent for the Netcong/Stanhope schools. Janet, Dan and Bill will meet with him to discuss the use of facilities. Janet would like to see wrestling moved there 5 nights a week if possible.

#### **A. Reorganization**

1. A motion was made by Bob Nosenchuk to have Bill Schilling remain as the Chairperson for the recreation committee. The motion was seconded by Tracy Church. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  2. A motion was made by Kate Walsh to have John Pappalardo remain as the Vice-Chairperson of the recreation committee. John Hebble seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  3. A motion was made by Tracy Church to have Kate Walsh fill the role of secretary on the recreation committee. Bill Schilling seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
- Bill is going to contact Tim Connery to find out his intentions as to whether or not he would like to remain on the recreation committee.

### **VI. Open to the Public**

- Since there was no public in attendance this was closed just the same.

### **VII. Adjournment**

- Tracy Church made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26pm. Bill Schilling seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes. Meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

## Action Plans

Janet – Letter to businesses about sponsorship for fireworks for Byram Day (don't know if we still want to do this because Bob reported that there would not be fireworks).

Follow up with Genevieve Pilat (results of meeting)

Blast e-mail to heads of sports organizations re: Rutgers Safety class

Submit long term projects list to Joe

Contact Lake Lackawanna regarding use of facility

Kate – Find out the name of the new Superintendent of Netcong/Stanhope schools. (since Janet knows who this is, and mentioned that she, Dan and Bill would meet with him, do you still want me to contact him re: a meeting on facilities' use??)

Draft letter to town council re: Tomahawk Park name change

Shawn – Contact Bill re: Open Space Committee meeting on 8/3

Oversee football use of CO 3

Bob – Contact Jimmy O to get contact information for Sports Hall of Fame

Make contact with the folks at Sports Hall of Fame

Dan – Take recommendations listed in the e-mail that Bill distributed to the town council.

Bill – Contact Tim Connery

Contact Colleen Ruth

Tracy – Excel spreadsheet with projects and their priority