

Byram Township Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2009

I. Call Meeting to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Present: Bill Schilling, John Pappalardo, John Hebble, Steve Koreivo, Chares Kranz, Kate Walsh, Shawn Armstrong, Colleen Ruth.

Absent: Tracy Church, Bob Nosenchuk

Also Present: Janet Meisner, Dan Rafferty

Due to Tim Connery's resignation, roll call will be changed to move Colleen Ruth to alternate 1 and Shawn Armstrong to full member.

III. Approval of Minutes, August 2009

John Pappalardo motioned to approve the minutes from September 16, 2009. John Hebble seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

IV. Committee Reports

Chamber of Commerce

- Andover Byram Chamber met. Taste of the Lakes fundraiser is postponed as there are not enough commitments from restaurants at the moment. At the last meeting there were only 3 restaurants available; 15 restaurants are needed. There is discussion to postpone this event until the spring.
- Discussion on the shopping center also took place at the last meeting. There is concern as stores continue to close in Shoprite Plaza.

Board of Education

- No report this month

Buildings and Grounds

- Fields 1 and 2 were aerated.
- Neil Gylling was aerated.
- Aerate and top dress all fields at CO as well.
- A request will be made by Hobb Engler to be permitted to drag the fields before each game. Volunteers will sign a hold harmless agreement to use the equipment. Equipment will be purchased by Hobb Engler Little League and will be stored in their shed. This will require a change in the town ordinance (re: motorized vehicles on township property).
- Alignment on field 3 is off. Discussion followed on realigning field in the future.

Byram Day

- Met last night for an after event evaluation. Meeting was positive. The group was pleased with how the day went. Group brainstormed and came up with:
 1. Donna approaching Jimmy O to move to Waterloo Village next year. Indian Village can be incorporated. Next year, Celebrating Patriots' Day was discussed. Can integrate the vendors and shops that are there.
 2. Lorna Dockery will come up with two different short surveys. One would deal with our vendors this year...how did it go? Second would be on the township website...what do you want to see in the future and asking for volunteers.
- John Pappalardo will be the liaison for the Knights of Columbus going forward.
- Need more volunteers and new ideas.
- Joe will be presenting the expenses from the day and looking for input from the council on what they would like to see in the future.
- Maybe encourage the boy scouts and the girl scouts to come up with games and activities for children and teens.
- Many feel that there needs to be more activities for adults and kids. Some ideas for adults: craft vendors, more music, music by the food, etc.
- Communiversity idea was well received but needs to be more centrally located.
- Need to begin meeting and preparing for next year. Waiting on direction from the Council.

Lenape Valley Municipal Alliance

- Shawn will work more closely with Fran Eckstein.
- Stanhope Municipal Clerk called and they have a volunteer from Stanhope for the Municipal Alliance.
- Stanhope is hosting a mischief night activity in conjunction with one of the Girl Scout troops. The activity will be held at Sparta Presbyterian Church.

Open Space

- The Hudson Greenway project is proceeding slowly. Closing date will probably be June or July of 2010.
- Lot lines need to be changed and approved by the planning board.
- This also needed to go in front of the County – needed an extension on their part of the funding.
- Proposal from Corey to perform the basic functions of ??????? at Jones Lane. There are 10.46 acres at that property.
- Township Capital Improvements Committee has been disbanded. Bill S, Ray B, EC rep, along with Joe will meet and discuss projects in the future.

Volunteerism Committee

- Last month Janet and Jimmy O looked briefly at the Sussex County Sports Hall of Fame. Janet does not think we can fit what they do into our format.
- Process on Volunteerism and Memorials and Honorariums needs to be finalized.

- We can forward this to the council now with the caveat that we will make the process more streamlined.
- Steve made a motion to submit the proposal to the council for review and feedback. Shawn seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.
- A Court of Honor was held for Mike Yanoso at the Bocce Ball courts this past Sunday. The event was moved inside due to inclement weather.
- Bocce court ends up with standing water at times. Discussion followed about the possibility of putting another drain to move the water.

Sports Council

- Met tonight. Wrestling mats and storage still big issue. Came up with ideas on what to do with the mats; wrestling wants a rack to store the mats.
- Bill has a rack available for the mats at MKHS; a price would need to be discussed and agreed upon by all parties
- Many kids from Stanhope and Netcong involved in the wrestling program. Netcong has not increased the time we can use their facilities. Reps from Rec, Basketball, and Wrestling need to go before the Netcong/Stanhope BOE to request more time in these facilities.
- Bleachers – we have funding and have been working on this 3 years. Sports Council feels if we are not forced to replace the bleachers, then we shouldn't. Can we take funding and move it to the next best thing? Perhaps back stops? We need to look at what the biggest safety issue is. Bleachers were already earmarked – people can get hurt. You cannot discount the safety of adults and children. New bleachers would be up to code.
- Backstops at Neil Gylling safety issue.
- Foul Balls being hit from field 3 to field 2 – also a safety issue.
- We should start replacing the bleachers, Neil Gylling backstops, CO backstops.
- Where is the money from the bond ordinance from the wash facility? There is some additional funding. Joe has gone out to get quotes for backstop at Neil Gylling, and CO Johnson field– the quote was very high. He is now asking on a by field basis so that he can establish what can be done with the funding available.
- Neil Gylling backstops are in terrible shape.
- Has Baseball and Softball representatives been included in the design of the backstops? No. Presidents of the organizations should be contacted for input. Dan will call Joe to discuss.
- Janet brought up the fact that there are several coaches coaching who have not fingerprinted and/or attended the Rutgers safety class. Certificates of approval were not issued for soccer, football, and fall baseball. We have two programs that have not completed everything, and have people on the field who are coaching...what happens to the programs, the township, etc.??? We have no way of stopping them...what is the answer?
- Dan stated that at this time we have no recourse and there is an ordinance on the books. How does that get enforced?

- Should there be monetary enforcement or should we just say you cannot be on those fields. People coaching without the proper credentials leaves the organizations and township open to lawsuit.

Strategic Planning

1. No report at this time.
2. Capital Improvement – let's see what happens with the \$70,000 in the next few weeks.

Youth Guidance

- Dances going well.
- The Spooktacular is this Sunday (Halloween Festival) at the Firehouse from 2-4:30.

Council Liaison

- Neil Gylling fields 1 and 2 are first priority.
- Joe will look into sprinklers but funding is an issue.
- Tries to call Joe the day after our meeting to fill him in on what was discussed. Minutes will be sent via e-mail by the end of the weekend.

Recreation Director

- Charity Hike is this Saturday rain or shine. If you haven't seen the Jones Lane location, that is where the hike starts. The rest of the hike goes through Hudson Greenway. The hike starts at 7:30 and you can start walking up until 10:30. This is a 4 mile walk to Wesby farm. They will provide you with hamburgers and hot dogs at the end of the hike. You have to tell your age at the beginning of the hike as funny money is used for donations on walk. You are given an amount of money based on your age.
- Open mic night struggling for location. This past week the event was held in court room. We had 50 kids with all of their equipment. The kids used the back room as their set up room. It worked but it is not an ideal location. Looking into Fire Department to house. Kids are between 18-28. Lake clubhouses some facilities are not available for rent and others are concerned with the noise level of the event.
- Received letter from Fire Department. They have concerns about kids hanging inside and outside? Who would clean up? What if fire alarm goes off? We would have to pay a fireman to monitor facility, septic issues. Janet informed the committee that the kids at open mic night clean up well. Janet will look into the legion hall in Stanhope.
- Regarding wrestling, there is no room for storage of mats. Pillars make it difficult to put mats down.
- Fall programs – loss of civic center detrimental, loss of economic security, loss of the newsletter all detrimental.

V. Other Business

- Meeting Day Change – 4th Tuesday of the month. Joe originally suggested we wait until January. However if we work with the township clerk to notice it then it's okay to change the meeting day. Fourth Tuesday of the month interferes with the Board of Health. It was decided that the second Tuesday of the month will be the meeting day beginning in November and will last through August. When Tracy finishes her classes we may be able to come back to Wednesdays.
- Budget Direction – The budget committee met and have some suggestions for the budget. With a zero base budget, you have automatic salary increases with contractual obligations, insurance costs, etc., what this requires is a reduction in all other expenses. Joe is requiring each department to reduce costs by 6.1%. Janet presented him with the budget we came up with as a group and then made suggestions on where we could cut the budget by \$6,000... in community transportation, office supplies, youth guidance, celebration of public events, other items left the same. Discussion followed as to where to make cuts. Bill recommended that we cut the senior citizen budget by \$1000. Advertising was cut by \$500. Youth Guidance cut by \$500. Celebration of public events was cut in total of \$3600. Operating Maintenance was cut by \$380. Budget was cut by a total of \$5980.
- Joe has said to Bill that someone should go before the council to present the budget as no one went last year to rec. Bill doesn't think this is appropriate nor does anyone else on the committee.
- Bleachers – can fences be retro fit? This idea was proposed but turned down. If retro fitting is cheaper, can this be done instead of buying new bleachers? Information would need to be presented to Joe and Adolf.

VI. Open to public

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

VII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by Kate; John Hebble seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.