

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

July 24, 2018

MEETING MINUTES (Approved – 4 pages)

1. **Call to Order – 6:00pm: Bacton Hill Park Planning Work Session (6pm-7pm):**
Board in attendance: Gail Keyes, Barbara-Ann Thav, Chuck Barbera and Tim Phelps (Tim until 7:30pm). Board not in attendance: Matt McGuire, Valeri Bocclair, and Kristin Thomas. Township Staff in attendance: Steve Brown. Board of Supervisor (BOS) in attendance: Scott Lambert. No attendees from the public.
 - a. **Update on ARROs submission of storm water management permit for Phase 1:** The meeting between ARRO and the Conservation District required for the NPDES permit has to be rescheduled and occur before this can move ahead. Steve expressed concern that this could delay us from getting in the ground this year. Steve indicated that the District is down two staff people, but he has asked ARRO if they can have the District expedite this. It is moving, but slowly.
 - b. **Update from subcommittee:** Barbara-Ann shared with the team that she, Valeri and Steve had a meeting on 7/20/18 with Sue Drummond, BOS Chair to discuss the Bacton Hill Park planning project to understand her input and/or concerns about us moving ahead with a master plan for the new park. Barbara-Ann and Steve also shared with the team that Sue has been approached by a resident to have a cricket pitch. Sue indicated they will be forthcoming with a petition. Steve did not have the petition to share with us at our 7/24/18 meeting. Steve shared details of what this might look like and the initial Park & Rec board consensus was that Bacton Hill Park may not have enough room for a full-blown cricket pitch and still be a safe environment for all park goers. Additionally, this sport was not overwhelmingly mentioned on the recent resident survey regarding the new park. Other locations (to be identified) might be better for the space required for this. There were many additional discussions on Bacton Hill including: making sure the Mom's Club has a well-designed plan to raise money for an all-abilities playground; understanding that Malvern Crossing, the new townhome community next to Bacton Hill Park has paid \$163K for the rec fee and could this be used for a master plan; that it would be good for residents to see how the rec fees get used in future park planning; how do we reallocate 2018 budget monies slated for Battle of the Clouds that was not used to the Bacton Hill project. Scott suggested that he research more on how funds are allocated.
 - c. **Continue discussion to determine communication items for EWT website:** Chuck shared that his drone photographer contact was able to get shots of Bacton Hill Park for us. We will give him credit when using the footage. No further discussions about the communication topic occurred. Will include on August agenda.
2. **Approval of the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve accepted with minor spelling corrections. Barbara-Ann to correct and have posted to the EWT website.
3. **Public Comment: General:** None
4. **Discussions:**

- a. **Requested enhancements to Battle of the Clouds baseball field:** Steve and Bill Steele were approached by a group of fathers who are also coaches of Little League-age travel teams in the area. Steve is not sure if they are East Whiteland Township residents. They are interested in modifying at least one of the two ball fields at Battle of the Clouds so that the bases and pitching mound are larger like the more advanced players need for their next more advanced stage of play. Steve shared some information he had on what this conversion might consist of. Chuck & Gail asked where else can they go to play on these larger fields and would this be competing with GV Little League? They also asked if the fence would need to be moved? Chuck, Gail and Barbara-Ann were concerned that adding in metal plugs to be able to move the mound and bases could be a trip hazard. Steve to look further into the options and invite the requestors to our August meeting for further discussion.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. **Valley Creek Park –Developer Offer to Connect Atwater by Trail – update from July 2018 Supervisors’ meeting:** Steve shared that the BOS approved this at their July meeting pending our approval of the design. Steve shared one revised drawing from Atwater’s engineer, Bohler, for the south side (we asked for two alternatives, only one was supplied). Tim expressed that he is opposed to this new option due to safety concerns and the fact that it will deter from the esthetics of the park because of coming too close down the middle of the grassy hill. Atwater is trying to keep it under a 12% grade. Steve shared that 18 months ago, the Atwater proposal to build this trail was at \$90K. Tim shared with the team web research he did which shows that in March 2010 that EWT accepted the Patriot’s Path proposal showing the trail on the North side of Valley Creek along the woods and then down next to the tennis courts (detailed plan on Tredyffrin’s website). The Parks board asked Steve for further clarification as to what Atwater’s obligation is and to go back to their designer and point to the plans on the original Patriot’s Path study that was accepted by the Township and look at the conditional use.
- b. **Valley Creek Park – Solicit Proposal from ARRO to Connect to Country View Road by Trail – update from July 2018 Supervisors’ meeting:** Barbara-Ann shared that this was approved by the BOS. Steve shared that the connection will be wherever the Atwater trail piece ends up being.
- c. **Update from Community Involvement subcommittee:** Chuck is still trying to connect with Melissa Gibbons, Parks director in Phoenixville, for her input on how they have done this. Steve still has to check with his other contacts.
- d. **Update on Open Space & Trails Plan & Grant:** The Township received 4 proposals. Steve and Zach (Planning) will review the proposals initially. The BOS should be conducting their interviews the week of 7/30/18 so that they may award the contract at their BOS meeting on 8/8/18.

- e. **Status of Battle of the Clouds play equipment replacement:** Steve is waiting on confirmation from the installer as to when this is planned. He has asked them a few times already. We are using the equipment provider's installer.
- f. **Spring Mill Farm area/Chester Valley Trail connector** – update on project: Steve will invite Natasha Manbeck from McMahon & Associates to our August meeting to discuss the proposals and next steps. Steve is hoping to have an additional call with St. Gobain to understand why their corporate facilities people indicated they are not interested in granting us an easement to use and approve their path.
 - i. **Bryn Erin trail connector to Chester Valley Trail** – update from July Supervisors' meeting: Steve shared that the supervisors approved us moving ahead to look into a paved connection from Bryn Erin to the Trail. Getting a surveyor to determine if an easement is needed behind Bryn Erin is budgeted for this year, and Steve is coordinating.
- g. **Summer Camp – update on how camp is going:** Camp is in full swing and ending on 7/27/18 for the season. Steve shared with the board the daily activity plan for the five-week program. Steve will ask Michelle to come to our August meeting so we can do a briefing and begin brainstorming for 2019 on how best to support this program.
- h. **Update on Friends of the Summer Stage concerts: last two concerts & how was the 2018 season:** As Matt was not present, we did not have a full update. Barbara-Ann and Gail confirmed that the third concert was held at The Office Bar & Grille due to inclement weather that night. Chuck confirmed that Nick's Roast Beef food truck did attend the last concert. Barbara-Ann asked Gail to connect with Matt to understand how he made out with the budget and donations this year. Gail did share that she thought Locust Lane was donating a certain amount of the beer garden proceeds to Friends of the Summer Stage. Scott asked what the formal rain-call process was. We will defer to Matt for details about rain plans.
- i. New Business:
 - i. **Begin brainstorm on 2019 goals & budget request:** Barbara-Ann asked the team to begin thinking about this as we will need to submit in the next couple of months. Some suggestions were: resurface remaining tennis courts at Valley Creek Park and update Park signage with new Township look and feel. Steve shared that Bill Steele is getting two of the tennis courts resurfaced this year as well as a few picnic tables for Valley Creek Park - - this has been budgeted for in 2018.
 - ii. **Can a business use the park to host a movie night:** Chuck inquired the possibility of his company renting the pavilion at Valley Creek Park to host a movie night(s). We indicated this should be possible and best done in conjunction with the Township, much like the Friends of the Summer Stage concerts are.
- j. **Meeting Adjournment - Next meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 – back to 7pm start time:** Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Barbara-Ann to invite Mom's club to the September meeting and will check with Bill Steele on the status of the few

additional budget items we had on our list for 2018. Others' actions are outlined in the above notes.

Minutes drafted by Barbara-Ann Thav

Minutes approved at the August 28, 2018 Parks & Rec board meeting