

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

August 28, 2018

MEETING MINUTES (5 pages)

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. Board in Attendance: All board members in attendance; Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown; Supervisors in Attendance: None
2. Approval of the July 24, 2018 meeting minutes – Motion to Approve, no changes. Barbara-Ann to have posted to EWT agenda center.
3. Public Comment: General: Approximately 12 residents attended and signed the sign-in sheet.
 - a. Marshall Hoffritz on Oak Glen Drive stated that he grew up on the cross-country team and now the number of places to run are limited and access getting to the Chester Valley Trail (CVT) is rough. Eli Kahn, the developer of the St. Gobain project, promised a public trail there. Marshall stated that he would like to see other options of other trails being developed, connecting parks, etc. He would like to see a connection to Valley Creek Park, which he believes is underutilized.
 - b. Nicole Jones, not a resident but the assistant cross-county coach at GV High School spoke. She stated that the team is training on the local Township roads. The amount of traffic has increased due to new developments in the Township. The berm on Sidley has no shoulder and cars are speeding there. The biggest concern from the school is accessing the Chester Valley Trail (CVT). They have children run down Sidley/Mill and cross over Rt. 401. Agrees with the path route recommended by McMahon and Associates. She sees residents out on Sidley/Mill accessing the CVT the same way, out all the way walking, biking and running. They would like to use the wood-chipped path on the St. Gobain property. She would like to see crossing lights or a cross walk at Mill Road so the kids can get over to the CVT more safely.
4. Discussions:
 - a. Battle of the Clouds baseball field – 50’/70’ field size (Steve Brown & Guests): Rich Mattison, lives on Swedesford Road and coaches baseball at TE and is also involved with GV Little League. He coaches a travel team that recruits East Whiteland children (there are 7 from EWT now), West Chester and other local areas but not from GV Little League. Rich stated that there is a gap in the area. There are not large enough fields to bridge the gap from younger kids’ baseball fields to the larger size needed for Middle School. He and two other coaches attended the meeting and asked that the right baseball field of Battle of the Clouds be converted to a 50/70 field. This would use plugs for bases, grading the mound back a bit further, and a little bit of a shave off the infield. They would rent the field as they have been doing and use it mostly in the Fall by teams outside of the GV Little League schedule/season. It would not conflict with Little League Scheduling. The plugs are buried and would not create a trip hazard. Gail Keyes motioned to recommend converting the one field to 50/70. Chuck Barbera second the motion. Motion passed. The coaches will present to the Board of Supervisors

at their October meeting for final approval. Steve Brown estimates this to be completed in 2019 pending budget approval.

5. Old Business:

- a. Summer Camp - briefing on 2018 season & 2019 brainstorming on our support (Michelle Mariano-Fasano, Camp Director, to attend): Michelle gave an overview of the 2018 camp season. Camp is held at Katie Markely School and can accommodate only up to 125 campers due to space at the school. Due to space restrictions, in previous years, it has been restricted to Township children or those that attend Katie Markley. Previous seasons saw about 110 campers registered with 85-90 attending every day. This summer, only 75 registered and the average daily attendance was 65 campers. Because of lower than average registration, this year the BOS approved opening it up to all GV students. Michelle did not think that this added many, if any, additional campers. The biggest attendance was on video game truck day. There were 14 counselors this year, although they could have used 16 counselors. Counselors are a mix of high school to college students as well as teachers. Michelle indicated it is difficult to find students interested in working. Michelle posts need for counselors with the school district and local colleges as well. Every Friday is a field trip (outings are included in the cost to attend camp). This year's field trips included outings to Grand Slam, Pancott Gymnastics, Goldfish Swim, Devon Bowling, etc. It also included outings to Battle of the Clouds and Valley Creek Park, although rain limited this in 2018. Michelle and the Parks & Rec board offered suggestions to explore for 2019 camp: offering a longer day of camp and a longer summer session, offering before camp and after camp options, more signage to advertise it, offering an early-registration discount to preregister and commit early, advertising it in the sewer bill, earlier advertising in In Great Valley Magazine and Main Line Neighbors, opening it up to children of people that do not live in the Township but who work in the Township, opening it up to children from Malvern Borough and asking Malvern Borough to contribute somehow. Michelle indicates that she wants to study the Willistown camp as a good model. Tim Phelps asked what the total number of children in GV schools are from East Whiteland. Nobody had an answer for that. Michelle is open to receiving emails with our suggestions. Valeri Boclair, Barbara-Ann Thav, Steve Brown will meet with Michelle this Fall to discuss options. A resident attending (Greg) indicated his daughter attended this year. His wife wasn't working this summer and was able to pick the daughter up after the ½ day of camp. However, in the future, when both of them are working, he would have to look for camp that offers a full day.
- b. Spring Mill Farm area/Chester Valley Trail connector – Natasha Manbeck from McMahan & Associates to provide update on recommendations. Discussion: Natasha provided a PowerPoint presentation of recommendations with maps (this is posted on the Township's website). Connecting the Sidley Road Corridor to the CVC is part of the comprehensive plan. A petition of approximately 200 signatures was submitted by residents asking for this connection. This is the first full review of recommendations made by McMahan. McMahan & the Township

have engaged via email and conference calls with the facility managers/owners of 1820 Moores Road to discuss integrating their wood-chipped path into the connection plan (where St. Gobain is currently located). Their initial response is that they are not interested in having a trail on their property. The mulch on this trail is not currently being maintained by the owners/tenants. The preferred recommendation is to focus on the Sidley Road to Mill Lane corridor. Kristin Thomas suggested that she and Barbara-Ann Thav look at their HR contacts to see who might be involved with health and wellness at St. Gobain to engage them in the discussion of using this trail. Marty Lutz (resident in attendance) indicated being part of a conversation/township meeting where the President of St. Gobain indicated he/she did not want kids running on the road. Marty also recalled a comment when the developer of this property, Eli Kahn, promised the path to the public. Marty also asked if the Township Solicitor has commented about the land development meeting minutes in regards to the public being able to use the path at St. Gobain. Recommendation is for a 5-foot shoulder and 2-foot buffer. This does not change the speed of the road. Tim asked if this would this work be eligible for a PennDOT or multi-modal grant? Natasha thought that perhaps some road work might fit within a multi-modal grant. Also, consider traffic calming solutions and crosswalks at Lapp Road. Motion approved to accept McMahon's preferred alignment recommendation and asked that McMahon research costs in a phased approach. McMahon to present their findings with cost analysis at the October 2018 BOS meeting.

- c. Bryn Erin trail connector to Chester Valley Trail – update on surveyor. The suggestion is to pave an 8' wide asphalt trail where the current footpath is, through the township owned path to the CVT. Steve Brown still needs to find a surveyor as ARRO doesn't have one on staff. Steve offered that the new development, Great Valley Crossing on Church/Moores Road has plans to provide a crushed stone connection owned and managed by their HOA from their west side. Barbara-Ann Thav asked how they plan to connect the East side of the development. It wasn't known, but the feeling was that they would have to have a crosswalk over Church/Moores Road. A resident spoke up and said this was safer, but they are still concerned about traffic and safety with narrow shoulders and would like to see more traffic calming on our streets. Kristin Thomas motioned to recommending this plan. Valeri Boclair and Gail Thomas seconded. All approved. Steve will work to present the plan with costs at the October 2018 BOS meeting.
- d. Update on Open Space & Trails Plan & grant – status of selecting consultant given postponement of regularly-scheduled August 2018 BOS meeting: The BOS had a special meeting on 8/28/18 prior to the Parks & Rec meeting where they selected the consulting company. Steve Brown is in the process of notifying all bidders.
- e. Bacton Hill Park Planning:

- i. Update on ARROs submission of storm water management permit for Phase 1: this is getting rescheduled but will delay work until 2019.
 - ii. Continue discussion to determine communication items for EWT website: did not discuss due to lateness of meeting.
 - iii. New sign: on hold for now until Township's new look and feel is determined.
 - iv. Any new updates: Yuuaras Durairos from the local Stallions Cricket Club (about 40 players) presented to Steve Brown a petition to build a full cricket field at the new Bacton Hill Park. Mr. Durairos is a former Township resident and currently works in the Township. His petition was signed by Township residents. Members of this cricket club plan to use personal funds to build the cricket pitch where the bowling and batting takes place in exchange for being able to schedule their use of the field on the weekends. They estimate this to cost between \$12K and \$15K. The field size requires 3 acres in radius with the pitch area being 10' across and 80' long. It is built with asphalt on the bottom and astro turf on the top. They did not offer any information on how the astro turf would be maintained. Their season is in early April through late August. The Parks & Rec board was receptive to the idea and advised that the Township was still early in the planning of this park. The board did express concerns with grading Bacton Hill Park to be flat enough to offer 3 acres of space needed for this. Yet all agreed that a cricket field would meet the needs of our community and one we have discussed a few times. We shared with Mr. Durairos that we are embarking on an open space study and that we would look for another space that might provide the 3 acres needed and be better suited for a flat cricket field. Mr. Durairos mentioned that there is a cricket field on Bacton Hill Road owned by another cricket club. In looking at Google Maps during the meeting, the Parks board thought this was owned by GV Schools, and probably not the other cricket club, and they should be able to reserve it through their website for use. Matt provided a contact name and number he had for GV Schools (Pat Scott) that Mr. Durairos could contact about using the field currently on Bacton Hill Road. We also gave him Keith Walsh's name from GVCO as someone he might want to discuss this with.
- f. Status of Battle of the Clouds play equipment replacement: Barbara-Ann Thav provided photos of the equipment installed and completed.
 - g. Update from Community Involvement subcommittee: Not much new to report here. Chuck Barbera has still not heard back from the Phoenixville contact.
 - h. Update on Friends of the Summer Stage concerts – budget discussion. Due to lateness of the meeting, this was not discussed. However, Matt indicated in email prior to the meeting that he has discussed this with the FOSS board and does not plan to discuss with the Parks & Rec board as not all the FOSS board are Parks & Rec board members.

- i. Valley Creek Park –Developer Offer to Connect Atwater by Trail – update, if any:
There was not update on this at this time.
6. New Business:
 - a. Begin to develop 2019 goals (projects & programs) & budget requests: Due to lateness of the meeting, we did not have much time to discuss. Barbara-Ann and others shared various items they have been collecting such as a promotional marketing piece, signs, roof on pavilion at Battle of the Clouds park, paving at Valley Creek Park, resurfacing of two Valley Creek Park tennis courts, restriping/paving of Down East basketball court, replacement of Ecology Park sign, connect Valley Creek Park to CVT, convert Battle of the Clouds baseball field to 50/70, summer camp enhancements, connect Rt. 30 area to CVT via school district building and Katie Markely school. Chuck and Valeri asked if there is a budget amount that we can spend without having to go to the BOS for approval. Steve would ask but didn't think so. Barbara-Ann, Steve Brown and Bill Steele (Public Works) will combine their 2019 budget lists and then email to the Parks & Rec board for input. Steve indicates we have plenty of time to do this.
7. Meeting Adjourned at 10pm- Next meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 –7pm start time

Meeting notes compiled by Kristin Thomas and Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at the 9/25/18 Parks & Rec board meeting