

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
February 23, 2021 (virtual)
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Housekeeping – 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Board in Attendance: Carol Rapp, Chuck Barbera, Tom O’Neill, Tim Phelps, Gail Keyes
Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown, Donna Wikert
Supervisors in Attendance: Scott Lambert
 - b. Board Unable to Attend: None
 - c. Reorganization – Election of Officers
 - Chair – Chuck Barbera (Gail made nomination/Tim seconded)
 - Vice Chair – Tom O’Neill (Chuck nominated Tim who passed; Gail nominated Tom/Tim seconded)
 - Secretary – Carol Rapp (Chuck made nomination/Gail seconded); Carol was not on the call to accept
Note: Carol’s call dropped and missed the nominations for Secretary & Vice Chair; when back on the call, Carol expressed she was not interested in the Secretary position; Chuck asked if Carol would handle position for this year.
 - d. Housekeeping – Gail still needs to return Social Media Policy signature form – Donna to mail form to Gail
 - e. Approval of the December 1, 2020 meeting minutes – Minutes Approved
2. Business to Discuss:
 - a. 2021 Meeting Dates – Approved
2021 meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7p.m., except Nov/Dec where there will be one combined due to year-end holidays – January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, December 7 (combined November and December meeting).
 - b. Project Updates
 - i. PROS Plan (Steve Brown) – BOS needs to authorize plan for transmittal to our neighbors, the school district and the county; plan is an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; have an extension from the county through end of May; county staff is authorized to grant another 6-month extension without going to Commissioners; hope to transmit in April or will need to ask for extension.
 - ii. Bacton Hill Park (Steve Brown) – BOS reviewed slides of new design at February meeting; Steve was directed to work with the consultant to make playground smaller (reduce 35K square feet in half – ended up being 60% of original size); revised size maintains original design of parking, trail and various play areas for different age groups (2-5 year old area, 5-12 year old area, toddler play area, adult fitness area – adult area may not be in Phase 1, central gathering area with picnic tables and benches); has landscaping, trees and paved pathways (concrete); Rick Trailes will take into consideration comments from the public made at the Board meeting (concerns about density of vegetation and should be low maintenance).

Scott Lambert – pointed out area in green on the slide is to be concrete which is a better medium; vegetation – concerns of parents losing sight of children if shrubbery too high; tree overage not able to be utilized at other project sites are being allocated to Bacton Hill (approx. 121 - 142 trees).

Although no decision on cost yet the BOS has decided on a rubberized surface instead of the engineered wood fiber in the play areas; rubberized is more expensive to put in but doesn’t require as much maintenance.

Tim Phelps – does changing materials to rubberized and concrete surface material affect impervious cover and/or trigger a different storm water management – Steve stated it doesn't change anything as these are considered impervious surfaces.

Provides play for all levels of play (ground level, climbing, slides, etc.); it is an all abilities playground;— had a bad experience with engineered wood fiber at Valley Creek Park – removed after two years; rubberized surface is soft but firm and will hold up better; both play area and play equipment are reduced but cost of surface material increased a little going with rubberized so no real change in overall cost; no meeting was held with P&R Board regarding changes to the playground prior to BOS meeting - was discussed with Board and consultant but not finalized; P&R could still make comments to be passed along if needed; going to be purchased through cooperative purchasing program; Steve has shared with Erin (Mom's Club).

BOS authorized site work to go out to bid back in December – still not out yet; ARRO is working with various utilities (Aqua, PECO) and with Sunoco as two pipelines cross the property near the entrance; need to coordinate design of our utilities which are to run in from Bacton Hill Rd; since public sewer is not available we will not have a restroom in first phase – need to get an exemption from the state; if the site work drags too long we may want to consider waiting until next winter (can get better prices in the winter months).

Tim Phelps – consider pouring a pad for porta-potties; need to launch something on that property this year so that people see movement on that park – more than hanging a sign and mowing grass.

Scott Lambert – talked with Daryl and in worst case scenario maybe we could at least bid the walking trails around the park.

Chuck Barbera – for Phase 2 do we have opportunities to make changes in Phase 2 – look for opportunities to fill voids in the community or things more financially situated that make it more attractive (e.g. dog park); Gail is opposed to dog park when open space is so limited in the township – Carol is not in favor of a dog park at Bacton Hill; Board needs to have a thorough discussion on a dog park.

- Gail confirmed Phase 1 is still playground, infrastructure and walking trail.
- Tom – still quite a bit of debris and fencing on the property that needs to be cleaned up.
- Steve had signs made for the park (entrance and parking area) but not put up yet.

iii. Springridge and Balderston properties acquisition (Steve Brown) – this is still going on and properties (not contaminated) surround the Malvern TCE superfund site and are across the street from GVHS & GVMS; Springridge is the larger of the two and is predominately wooded; Balderston is 11 acres and needed for access to Springridge property; going on two years now; target settlement date for 5/1/21.

c. Summer Camp (Steve Brown) – we want to open registration for East Whiteland residents 3/1 and for Great Valley residents 4/1; school district is still not allowing people to use their facilities; most municipal summer camps are outdoor camps; would be at Battle of the Clouds park and would be 5 weeks 8:30 – 2:00 p.m.; no CDC or state restrictions on capping number of campers but we will cap at 100; will have a Covid plan in place; starting to get the word out that camp will be open; looking for counselors; BOS voted to increase fees \$50 across the board;

Tom O'Neill asked if the increased number of field trips indoor are within CDC guidelines and about transportation; Steve said field trips are to be set at 6 and are within guidelines – Michelle will need to work with vendors about any restrictions they may have in place; parents are to provide transportation for field trips.

d. Friends of Summer Stage (Tim Phelps) – concerns with losing connection with this group; Tim and Gail sit on committee; fundraising aspect of this has not occurred due to Covid; \$\$ allocated from township to support this program; two questions – where does the home of Friends of the Summer Stage reside and should there be a stronger relationship between the Friends of the Summer Stage and the P&R Board; should P&R board take this over again or play a larger role; from a community perspective what is it's priority within the township and what is the funding mechanism; we are pretty tight on booking schedule for June – don't know where we will be for

Covid standard in June for outdoor events; Steve thinks the attendance limit is 2500 people; Chuck asked who is the decision maker for holding the concerts; Gail says Friends of the Summer Stage and Township have traditionally made decisions; Tim says they are looking for a planning partner – Matt (Chair) doesn't want to be planning events anymore; Chuck asked if we should make a sub-committee; Tim said they will need some outside sponsors & volunteer labor; Steve said Matt indicated he won't be able to fundraise anymore so Steve let Matt know the township did allocate and approve \$10k to use for this year – can do four concerts for \$20K; several tasks need to be done by volunteer labor; The Point handles everything related to the entertainment; Tim & Gail to take this info back to Matt and find out what the Friends of the Summer Stage are able to do.

- e. Ecology Park – Catalyst update (Steve Brown) – discussed at a Planning Commission meeting initially; improvement will be limited to a landscaping plan for backside of the sign – will be a plan developed for screening, buffering, landscaping; P&R should review the plan before approved; Scott said they will not be removing trees in this section of the park.
- f. New Programs and Service Initiatives (Chuck Barbera) – proposed establishing sub-committees (Yoga in the Park, Movie Night in the Park, etc.) – maybe run some community programs and expand offerings to the public; something to think about as we move forward; Tim asked the Board to give thought to what we could do for an event in the fall (Oct).
- g. Marketing and Communications Sub-Committee (Chuck Barbera) – Chuck was going to work with Kristin but need to relook at this since she has stepped down from the Board; utilize In Community magazine and social media.
- h. Additional Item: Down East (Steve Brown) – no conversations with the Bittos in the last 3 or 4 months; Steve to reach back out to Tim Bitto; Tim suggested inviting Tim Bitto to make a presentation at the next meeting.

3. Public Comment:

- a. Barbara-Ann Thav – Congratulations to the new board members; use complementary trees for coverage between new community and Bacton Hill park; refer to Bacton Hill playground as all abilities rather than handicapped playground – more sensitive; important to clean up debris at Bacton Hill; township and P&R owes the public a good Covid prevention plan for camp; need a sign and a little sprucing up for the Little Library at Battle of the Clouds park; Friends of the Summer Stage – was proposed initially that the concerts would be self-funding; might want to hire a consultant or event management company; Ecology Park – Catalyst said for every tree they will replace with two; also could have minor improvements to the park written into the lease.
- b. Marty Lutz – Rezoned some properties (Ecology Park) from Open Space to Professional Office which allows for electronic billboards – has P&R had access to the lease agreement for this property; does applicant have carte blanche to remove vegetation for the sign – Little Valley Creek runs through there and has very large sycamore trees and would not like to see these trees topped; does the P&R Board have a role in this; suggested a copy of the lease be provided to the P&R Board.

Chuck Barbera – have not had information passed through the board yet to provide input in an advisory role; Gail suggested we include in agendas going forward.

4. Meeting Adjournment – Next meeting is March 23, 2021.