

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
April 27, 2021 (virtual)  
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order & Housekeeping – 7:00 p.m.

a. Board in Attendance: Chuck Barbera, Carol Rapp, Tim Phelps, Tom O’Neill, Gail Keyes, Tara Pellini  
Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown, Donna Wikert  
Supervisors in Attendance: Scott Lambert

b. Board Unable to Attend: Amit Kohli

c. Approval of the March 23, 2021 meeting minutes – Approved.

d. Introduction of new members, Tara Pellini & Amit Kohli  
Amit was unable to make this month’s meeting.

2. Updates

a. Bacton Hill Park (Clean up, mowing, signage, playground)  
John Neil to mow and clean up. Mowing a path around the park perimeter.  
Steve Brown to go out the following week to place Park signage

Playground – Arrow cost estimate is at \$1.6 million

- Sitework and playground ~\$700K
- \$300K projected to come from grants, Township budget \$1.3 million, MOMS Club of Malvern Fundraising
- Original proposal was revised to include less equipment but a better quality ground cover which is why the budget didn’t reduce significantly

Gail Keyes Motions to accept Proposal. This motion opened up discussion on this not being the big vision the Board had hoped to achieve with the opportunity to build a new Park/Playground.

**Motion was amended to read:** Motion to approve the proposal that is presented tonight, stating that what is included in this proposal is the MINIMUM of what the Parks and Recreation Board would accept for Bacton Hill's Park Phase I. (Carol seconds motion)

- Tim Phelps discusses why he is voting No for this motion. He makes the stand that the current proposal is not enough of the big vision that this park can and should be.
- Additional conversation on this is just Phase I and there is still a vision to include pump track/skate park, etc. Playground is still being finalized and look to the MOMS Club of Malvern to review play equipment selections. Current equipment selections are from consultants.
- Phase I reduced the size of adult exercise equipment
- **Vote Results:** 5 yes, 1 no

b. Summer Camp (enrollment/hiring)  
Current enrollment up to 67, with 20 counselors hired.  
Township ordered an extra porter potty/wash stations.  
Shipping container will store all tables and chairs used for camp.  
COVID plan being outlines as new CDC recommendations are being made.

c. Down East Park – Bitto Family & Where Angels Play  
Discussion over if township should make a contribution.  
Total shortfall for the project is at ~\$62K if concrete can be donated, otherwise ~\$70-78K

Contribution would be in addition to the townships site prep.

Motion – Parks & Rec Board will make an additional contribution up to \$20K to help Down East move forward

Vote Results – 5 yes, 1 Abstain with concerns about future neighborhood parks asking for similar assistance

Bitto Family is committed to fundraising for the remainder of the funds.

d. Operating Safe Festivals and Events Webinar  
Check Barbera shared information with Steve Lambert

e. Zoom meeting with West Whiteland's Friends of the Parks  
Meeting to understand the structure of 501c3 created to support West

## Whitelands Parks & Recreation

This allows the ability to do more community focused events.

- f. Catalyst billboard tree removal/replacement plan  
Steve Brown shared the proposal by Catalyst for the removal/replacement of trees which is required in their lease agreement. Proposal shows replacement of 142 trees.

Scott Lambert voiced concerns regarding tree removal. Catalysts original presentation assured no trees need to be removed, other than what needs to be removed for Billboard access road and base of billboard.

Next steps: Showing this draft for comments with a Landscape consultant to help direct on recommended tree types.

- Tim Phelps suggested that all trees should be native.
- Tom O'Neill asked a question regarding trees life and what is being guaranteed.
- Gail wanted to know what type of trees are being removed.
- Will the trees help protect the billboard from graffiti, vandalism?
- Steve asked to make a note about the 105 trees planted to the East. There have been soft discussions in the past on connecting that area to the Chester Valley trail.
- Length of Catalyst lease is 30 years, and it's a perpetual lease and could go on indefinitely
- Comment regarding Valley Creek and is there is an exceptional creek where there needs to be a 150 foot buffer
- Public comment (Barbara Ann) is the area where large amount of trees are going is that wetlands?

## 4. Business to Discuss

- a. Summer Concert Series/Friends of Summer Stage
- Rich (President) and Jess (Talent Buyer) from Point Entertainment were on the call. They have worked with them for the past 5 years to find talent and organize the event. They will continue to work with us for 2021.
  - Point will move forward in good faith. Township will pay Point who will distribute funds to talent, etc.
  - Continuing to look into status of 501c3 to determine how we can fundraise throughout the year.
  - 2021 will have 3 shows on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month (June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>).
  - Next steps:
    1. Need to determine volunteer pool for the day of the event.

2. Look into sponsorship opportunity.
3. Determine what CDC Covid Protocols need to be followed.
4. Explore collaboration with Peoples Light. Township supported them last year with \$10,000. in lieu of the Summer Stage.

b. Marketing/Communication Sub-Committee proposal review

- Established a phased approach for Parks & Rec Board to create a better reach to the community
- Phase I – Share one way information
- Phase II – Employ a survey to get information back
- Phase III – Interactive
- Determine who implements? Talk to Tom Nagle Re: Social Media Policy

c. Movie Night/Other Events

Looking into hosting first East Whiteland Movie Night at Valley Creek Park. Chuck Barbera's goal is to increase offerings like these to our township community.

Shared current quote for rental equipment (~\$2,500) and movie licensing (~\$500)

Next Steps – sub-committee decided to include (Chuck as Chair, and Carol Rapp and Tara Pellini) to create a proposal to submit to the Board of Supervisors

Other Events – Picnics in the Park, Grill outs, Look to partner with local companies for donations

Tim mentioned a Passport Book

4. Public Comment - None

5. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

1. Meeting Adjournment