

East Whiteland Township Park and Recreation Board

Meeting minutes – June 28, 2022

In attendance: Chuck Barbera, Tim Phelps, Gail Keyes, Carol Rapp, Amit Kohli

Also in attendance: Scott Lambert, Steve Brown

One member of the audience

Mr. Barbera brought the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The first order of business was to consider the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Keyes made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Rapp seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0. Ms. Rapp asked that the approved meeting minutes since January 2022 be posted to the Township website.

Mr. Barbera provided an update regarding park and recreation actions taken by the Supervisors at their June 8, 2022 meeting. He stated that the Supervisors approved the proposal from McMahan for engineering services related to the Patriots Path (Old Lincoln Highway and Lancaster Avenue area) and to apply for Chester County Preservation Partnership Program funds to help pay for a public restroom along the Chester Valley Trail near the Municipal Building.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Lambert provided updates on the Sidley Road/Mill Lane connector trail and the trail on Great Valley School District property along Swedesford Road. Mr. Brown stated he is setting up interviews with four engineering firms and hoped the Supervisors would make a selection at their August meeting. Mr. Lambert advised the Park and Recreation Board that the staff and Supervisors were evaluating alternative locations for the trail based on comments from parents and the District. The Board stated, while this is a matter for the Supervisors to decide, they did not want to see the installation of the trail delayed as it is included in Township plans and required by ordinance. Mr. Lambert said the Supervisors have also heard from residents that favor the construction of the trail. The Park and Recreation Board indicated that they believed a fence may be a good idea to address security concerns. Mr. Brown and Mr. Lambert updated Mr. John Butow, resident of 25 Flintshire Road, regarding the Sidley/Mill trail as he missed that portion of the meeting.

The Park Board continued discussion regarding possible trails along Flat Road and/or Lee Boulevard to connect to Sidley Road. Mr. Phelps mentioned the Devault trail and that an

“activation plan” was recently completed by TMACC and the involved municipalities, including East Whiteland.

Mr. Brown provided updates on Down East Park and Bacton Hill Park. He stated the appraisal was being revised for the potential purchase of property to expand the park. He also said that he had reached out to the property manager for 100 Lindenwood Drive to gauge the interest of the owner in allowing parking for the park. He emailed the property manager for an update but had not received a response to date. Regarding Bacton Hill Park, Mr. Brown said he met with the owner of Medical Home Supply, Michael Vohringer, to discuss and coordinate on the installation of a fence along the joint property line; approximately 500’ of fence is needed. Mr. Vohringer will update his quote for the PVC fence and is willing to split the cost with the Township. The Park Board asked Mr. Brown about extending the fence to the next property to the south. Mr. Brown said the Township would likely be responsible for that but would try to reach the property owner. Mr. Lambert reminded Mr. Brown that the Supervisors also want to plant trees along the fence line. The status of construction was also discussed including a grading matter along the property line with Medical Home Supply. Mr. Barbera stated that another meeting regarding the planning for phase 2 needs to be set-up.

Mr. Brown provided a brief update on summer camp. Camp started on June 27th. Five campers with scholarships were in attendance. There were no problems to report and campers were enjoying the ping pong table donated by Mr. Barbera.

Mr. Barbera and Mr. Phelps provided an update on the most recent summer concert. They discussed how well it was attended, donations, how the vendors did, the use of the parking lot in Valley Creek Park, etc. They stated the feedback from attendees has been positive. The next concert is July 20, 2022 featuring Sarah Shook and the Disarmers.

Brief reports were provided by the following sub-committees:

- Friends of East Whiteland Township Park and Recreation – the paper work for the 501.c.3 status was filed by our Solicitor with the IRS last week
- Cricket field – the sub-committee met on June 27th and identified approximately 10 properties of interest
- Social media – the Facebook page will be used again until the Township resolves its plans for a Township-wide Facebook page

Mr. Barbera stated that he, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Brown met with Keith Walsh from Great Valley Community Organization (GVCO). We will look for ways to collaborate and partner with each other on future programming.

Mr. Barbera suggests that a sub-committee be created for playground equipment inspection and maintenance.

Ms. Rapp asked about the status of the installation of the communication boards in our parks. Mr. Brown reported that the three signs have been installed.

Mr. Kohli asked if a charity needs to pay a park rental fee for use. The consensus was to consider these on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.