



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – February 6, 2023

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on February 6, 2023 and began at 6:33pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Kristen Willis presiding.

**In attendance were:** Committee Members: Kristin Willis, On Zoom: Jaime Smith, Laura Massaro Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson MST Liaison: Chris Rain

Kristen Willis made a motion to accept the agenda. Jaime Smith seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Reorganization of the Committee:** Jaime Smith was appointed chair by the Board of Supervisors at their 2023 reorganization meeting. Laura Massaro made a motion to reappoint the same vice chair and secretary as 2022, with Laura Massaro as vice chair and Kristen Willis as secretary for 2023. Kristen Willis seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Kristen Willis made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 2022 meeting. Jaime Smith seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Correspondence:** An email was received from Vicki Staples, beekeeper at the Community Gardens and was discussed in the Community Gardens section.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Events:** Chris Rain provided the committee with a draft of the sponsorship brochure for 2023. Kristen Willis asked to have copies once it's finalized to bring around to businesses to increase sponsorships.

Dates for the 2023 events were provided to the committee and are as follows: Eggstravaganza, 4/1; Spring 1000 Feet, 4/22; Fall 1000 Feet, 9/30; Trunk or Treat, 10/21; Tree Lighting, 11/25; three dog trainings on 5/20, 7/15, and 9/16. The committee discussed a new date for Community Day – formerly known as Volunteer Fair & Touch a Truck. It will be held on Saturday 7/15 this year to spread out events more evenly during the year.

The committee members present were assigned as event leads as follows: Kristen Willis, Eggstravaganza; Jaime Smith, Fall 1000 Feet; Laura Massaro, Tree Lighting. Chris Rain will speak to Debbie Kulick and Chrissy Fellmeth about which events they would like to lead. Chris Rain will coordinate with Kristen Willis before the March meeting to work on Eggstravaganza.

**Parks Survey:** 180 responses have been received. Chris Rain provided the committee with some data from the responses. Chris Rain is ordering a postcard to direct mail to the whole township to increase responses. Response for the dog park is low. Annette Atkinson suggested volunteers could be at the dog park on a nice Saturday to try to capture more dog park users.

**Community Gardens:** Chris Rain submitted a grant application to One For Nature on 1/20 for \$5000 to resurface the parking lot and paths as well as purchase supplies to rebuild 75 of the garden plots.

The Master Gardeners are meeting on 2/7 to discuss the rain garden at the Community Center. Annette Atkinson is attending and will ask them if they have plans for gardening classes and about returning to manage the demonstration garden at the Community Gardens.

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Chris Rain read an email from Vicki Staples. The bees at did not make it through the winter. Vicki has purchased new bees and the township will reimburse her for the expense.

**Dog Park:** Mike Dwyer reported that the water spigot froze and thawed but doesn't appear damaged. He also suggested that since playground equipment was the highest rated amenity on the survey results that the township install equipment at the dog park.

**Echo Lake:** The MCOS grant to resurface the remainder of the walking trail will be completed in the spring.

**Judy Putek:** No report.

**Resica:** No report.

**Litter and Beautification:** No report.

**EMC Regional Parks:** The Pocono Area Cycling Tract (PACT) applied for a mini-grant to get new equipment for maintaining the bike park. Middle Smithfield provided a letter of support and a \$1000 in kind commitment if they receive the grant.

**Announcements:** None.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday March 6, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Kristen Willis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain  
Middle Smithfield Township