



Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – May 1, 2023

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on May 1, 2023 and began at 6:37pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Kristen Willis presiding.

In attendance were: Committee Members: Debbie Kulick (on Zoom), Laura Massaro (on Zoom), Kristen Willis
Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson MST Liaison: Chris Rain

Laura Massaro made a motion to accept the agenda. Debbie Kulick seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Debbie Kulick made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting. Laura Massaro 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.

Parks Sponsorships: Annette Atkinson provided a copy of the Civic Events and Person of the Year sponsorship brochures which will be mailed out with the Parks sponsorship brochure as soon as possible.

Events: 1000 Feet of Street was held on Saturday April 22. 13 volunteers cleaned two sections of Rt 209 between the township line and Municipal Drive while other groups clean several other roads. As of May 1, 76 volunteers had cleaned approximately 350 bags from 22 miles of road. Laura Massaro and Kristin Willis stated that they thought the day went very well. Laura Massaro stated that she saw orange bags on many roads throughout the township. Kristin Willis asked whether we could get kids shirts. Chris Rain will check with Double M.

Community Day is schedule for Saturday July 15. Chris Rain reported that about 10 organizations are already signed up to attend the event and that MG Empanadas food truck will also attend. Marshalls Creek Fire Company will also bring their grill and sell burgers as a fundraiser. Mike Dwyer asked what the status was with the antique car groups. Chris Rain reported that neither group had committed so far.

Parks Survey: Chris Rain stated that there was little response to the QR code signs at Eggstravaganza, but that he placed the signs at all of the parks after the event and that people are taking the survey from them. There were over 200 responses as of May 1. The signs will stay at the parks through Memorial Day. Chris Rain will have results for the committee at the June meeting.

Community Gardens: Supplies for the One For Nature grant project are being ordered. The road crew will begin re-surfacing the parking lot and paths as soon as their schedule allows.

Annette Atkinson reported that the Master Gardeners are not currently planning classes at the Community Gardens and will instead focus their efforts on the rain garden they manage at the Community & Cultural Center.

Vicky Smith reported by email that the bees were delayed and will not be moved in in time for the May 6 demonstration. She will still hold the demonstration for anyone who is interested in learning about beekeeping.

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Dog Park: No report

Echo Lake: Mike Dwyer reported that a local family planted a tree in the park in memory of a family member. Chris Rain reported that the road crew will begin re-surfacing the rest of the trail, funded by the 2022 MCOS grant, as soon as their schedule allows.

Judy Putek: No report.

Resica: No report.

Litter and Beautification: Mike Dwyer commented about PennDOT no longer providing a dumpster for litter cleanup events. Chris Rain stated that they do still provide supplies including bags, vests, pickers, and gloves. Mike Dwyer also commented that we should make sure that our volunteers know about any volunteer benefits provided by the PMVB for Pick Up the Poconos, such as the Earth Day fair that was held in the West End on April 22.

Committee Member Debbie Kulick had to leave the meeting at 7:02pm due to a previous commitment. The committee no longer had quorum, but discussed the remainder of the agenda until 7:09pm.

EMC Regional Parks: *There is no update from Smithfield Township regarding the Bike Park rehabilitation.*

Announcements: *Annette Atkinson announced that the Flowers Everywhere exhibit opening is Thursday May 4 at 5pm at the Community & Cultural Center. The exhibit will remain up through the end of May.*

Chris Rain reviewed the Township's Child Protective Policy with the committee. Committee members who volunteer for more than two events annually where children are present must complete background checks. Committee members will be reimbursed any costs by the Township. The committee members were mailed the information by Michele Clewell in April.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday June 5, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain
Middle Smithfield Township