



## Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – June 5, 2023

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The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on June 8, 2023 and began at 6:32pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Laura Massaro presiding.

**In attendance were:** Committee Members: Jaime Smith (on Zoom), Laura Massaro, Kristen Willis Board of Supervisors: Mike Dwyer, Annette Atkinson MST Liaison: Chris Rain Public: Deborah Conklin

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

Kristen Willis made a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Laura Massaro seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** Deborah Conklin stated she read about the parks committee in the Township's Spring 2023 newsletter and decided to attend a meeting to learn more.

**Parks Sponsorships:** Chris Rain reported that the packets went out. Scantek responded that they would be a Gold Sponsor for the parks at \$500. Staff is following up with other potential sponsors. Kristen Willis asked to have copies of the sponsorship material before she leaves the meeting.

**Events:** Community Day is schedule for Saturday July 15. Chris Rain reported that about 15 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 reported that Bushkill Fire Company will also sell food at the event. Chris Rain reported that he had ordered a banner for the event and provided a flyer to the committee for review. Flyers will be dropped off to the school district on 6/6 for distribution before the end of the school year on 6/9.

**Parks Survey:** Chris Rain provided the committee with data from the parks survey including question responses and comments. There have been a total of 220 responses. The committee will review the data at home for future discussion. Chris Rain will provide the data as a PDF by email as well.

**Community Gardens:** Resurfacing of the parking lot and paths is completed. Wood and blocks to rebuild garden plots are at the gardens. Gardeners have begun rebuilding plots. Chris met with volunteer Ted Strohl who will also help rebuild plots.

The bees that beekeeper Vicky Staples ordered from Mann Lake arrived dead. She is working on getting more bees for the gardens.

Chris Rain also reported to the committee that community gardener and Master Gardener Carolyn Jones had passed away. Annette Atkinson reported that the Board of Supervisors were working with the Master Gardeners to plant a tree at the park in her memory.

**Dog Park:** No report

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**Echo Lake:** Chris Rain reported that the resurfacing of the parking lot and the walking trail was complete. The Township was waiting for one invoice from the quarry before completing the grant report.

**Judy Putek:** The Master Watershed Stewards will be at the park in the coming weeks to perform maintenance on their tree nursery.

**Resica:** Chris Rain reported that one of the Bear Saver trash cans was moved by the little league field. He also reported that there had recently been incidents of residents closing the gates of the field to use as a dog park. The little league asked permission to lock the gates. Chris Rain recommended locking them open so the public can still use the field, but residents can't pen in their dogs. Jaime Smith reported that since they did this the problem has gotten better. Chris Rain also reported that a resident, Joann Schaller, had asked whether the Township would consider turning the volleyball pit into a dog park. The committee was not in favor as dog parks and little league are not compatible uses. Mike Dwyer stated he thought that the school district would not allow it. Jaime Smith stated that she knows a church group uses the volleyball pit, so it does get use.

**Litter and Beautification:** Chris Rain reported that the planters were planted and out on Rt 209 before Memorial Day. Public Works has been able to water them and the plants are doing well so far. Kristen Willis stated that she thought the planters looked good.

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

**Announcements:** Annette Atkinson announced that there was a gardening class on weeds at the Community & Cultural Center on Saturday June 10.

The committee decided to move the July committee meeting from Monday July 3 to Monday July 10 due to the Independence Day holiday falling on a Tuesday and members would be away that week.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday July 10, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. Jaime Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Laura Massaro seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain  
Middle Smithfield Township