



Minutes: Parks & Recreation Committee – August 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held on August 7, 2023 and began at 6:33pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building with Kristen Willis presiding.

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

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

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

Laura Massaro joined the meeting by Zoom at 6:36 and did not participate in the agenda or minutes votes.

Child Protective Clearances: The committee was reminded to get any clearances to Michele Clewell if they haven't already.

Correspondence: Emails were received regarding several parks and are addressed in those sections.

Public Comment: None

Parks Sponsorships: Chris Rain reported that six sponsors have given \$2,100 in parks sponsorships for the year. The sponsors are Cory Willis Trucking, LVH Pocono, Scantek, ESSA Bank, Super Heat, and Huffman Electric. Wayne Bank is expected to be the seventh sponsorship, but the check hasn't been received yet.

Events: Community Day was held on Saturday July 15. The event went very well. There were 28 organizations plus two food vendors. The number of food vendors was very good for the size of the event. Mike Dwyer recommended moving the Bushkill Fire Company food trailer up by the circle next year as their generator was loud. Positive feedback was received by both attendees and organizations. Chris Rain reported that most or all of the organizations received new sign ups.

1000 Feet of Street is on 9/23 and Trunk or Treat is on 10/21. Chris Rain provided drafts of the flyers for 1000 Feet of Street and Trunk or Treat for review by the committee. He will send the 1000 Feet of Street call list to Jaime Smith in the coming weeks to call past volunteers. He will also email past car decorators to sign up for this year's Trunk or Treat. Debbie Kulick will be the committee coordinator for Trunk or Treat.

Deborah Conklin asked how 1000 Feet of Street works. The committee members explained.

Parks Survey: Chris Rain provided copies of the survey results to the committee at the June meeting. Any feedback on the results can be submitted to him.

Community Gardens: Chris Rain is meeting with Erik Sink from One For Nature on Thursday August 10 so he can see the progress on the grant project. The reimbursement request can be submitted after this meeting.

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Chris Rain received an email from Vicky Smith. She was contacting Alex Jackson from the Brodhead Watershed Association about getting bees but has decided against it. She doesn't feel they would survive until the spring. She will get new bees in 2024.

Dog Park: No report. Debbie Kulick asked about replacing the tops of the benches by the flagpole. Chris Rain reported that it was on the maintenance to do list.

Echo Lake: Chris Rain received an email from Sue Detrick of the Master Gardeners about a memorial tree and bench in honor of Carolyn Jones. The proposal was to place it in Echo Lake Park as there is no good place to put a tree in Community Gardens. The committee commented that it would make more sense to have it at the gardens where she was very active. Suggestions included landscaping around the shade pavilion and a plaque naming the pavilion after Carolyn, or placing a bench and plantings near the playground.

Judy Putek: James Fahl completed his Eagle Scout project. He built and placed two picnic tables and four benches at the park. Pictures were provided. Mike Dwyer asked that Chris Rain create a certificate for him and future scouts to receive from the Parks Committee.

Resica: Mike Dwyer spoke to Kerry Perez from the little league at Community Day about needed repairs and Chris Rain received a follow up email. Repairs were for the bleachers, a gate, and the fence. Chris Rain reported that these repairs had been completed. Chris Rain also reported that the Keystone Stallions would start having youth football practices in the field at Resica. He confirmed with Kerry Perez that this would not interfere with the little league.

Litter and Beautification: No report.

EMC Regional Parks: Chris Rain reported that the gate at the bike park was damaged. Smithfield Township replaced the gate and Middle Smithfield will share the cost with them.

Announcements: Chris Rain announced that he will not be at the September 5 parks committee meeting. Holly Dennis will be there to take minutes.

The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Tuesday September 5, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Middle Smithfield Township Building. This meeting was moved from 9/4 to 9/5 at the February committee meeting due to the Labor Day holiday. Kristen Willis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Debbie Kulick seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chris Rain
Middle Smithfield Township