

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Call to order by Chairman Bob Penrose at approximately 5:30 pm

Roll Call:

Castor (Alternate #1) – Absent

George – Present

Hoff (Alternate #2) – Present

Leatherwood – Absent

McManus – Absent

Penrose – Present

Rebmann – Absent

Rosenthal – Present

Slotterback – Absent

Approval of minutes of the August 2016 meeting was tabled till the next meeting in October. While we had a quorum of 4, of those present only 2 were at the August meeting. Therefore, we did not have a quorum to vote on those minutes.

Guest speakers: None

Correspondence: None

New Business:

Compliance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Program Assistance Act. The Township currently has more than enough CORE Trained individuals and is in compliance with the Act. However, the Township is required, on an annual basis, to complete 8 CEUs (Continuing Education Units). 2 Individuals from the Township must obtain at least 8 CEU's between them in order for the Township to remain in compliance with the Act. Fortunately for us, The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation is holding their 91st Annual Conference on Friday October 28th & Saturday October 29th at Bally's Casino in Atlantic City. By attending the "General Session" of the Conference (either day) an individual can receive 5 CEUs. These individuals do not have to be CORE Trained to attend the "General Session" to obtain the 5 CEUs. Brad Rosenthal expressed interest in attending the Saturday venue as there are some important topics that can benefit our Township. We need another individual to attend this conference and obtain the additional 5 CEUs. As other members of the Environmental Commission have attended this Conference in the past, discussion revolved around encouraging other members to attend this Conference. (see attached flyer regarding the schedule). Alma George will reach out to Vernon Champion, Public Works to inquire as to whether or not he or anyone else from Public Works is planning to attend. (*subsequent follow-up; no one from Public Works is attending*)

Ongoing Business:

Discussion about the Turner Memorial centered around the Arbor & other structures that will be place at the existing Municipal Garden located at the end of the parking lot at the Municipal Building. The Commission is still collecting estimates and proposals for this worthwhile endeavor.

Once again Justin Turner offered to help in any way including but not limited to helping with fundraising for materials needed. The Commission appreciates his support and attendance at our meetings. Mr. Turner also expressed willingness to help out on clean-up efforts at the Beaver Dam area.

Public Comment:

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Committee Woman, Lisa Salimbene reported on the Dog Park, Sledding Hill and on the Bike Path.

With regard to the Dog Park the following information was presented:

- 1) Dog size will be determined by weight with appropriate signage.
- 2) There will be no staffing/referring of said Dog Park.
- 3) The hours will be dawn to dusk (same as the Rec Center),
- 4) While there is the expectation that responsible dog owners will clean up after their pets there will be signage to that effect. There will also be disposable bag dispensers available along with waste receptacles.
- 5) Dog bites are an ongoing discussion with Township Counsel. Obviously signage will have to address the fact that the dogs and their owners enter at their own risk and that the Township is in no way responsible or liable for any mishaps occurring between the dogs and/or their owners.
- 6) No proof of vaccine will be required.
- 7) There will be no time limit other than the dawn to dusk.
- 8) There will be no additional lighting.
- 9) At this time there is no limit as to the number of occupants in the dog park at any given time.
- 10) Owners must accompany their pets at all times.
- 11) Dogs will be allowed off lead inside the dog park only.

Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the Dog Park and parking relative to private residences and the Rec Center. The Park is to be placed in such a manner as to minimize any inconveniences &/or interference between the Dog Park and private residences as well as Rec Center activities. At this time, we are not sure as to the extent of paving that would be required for this additional parking not only for the Dog Park but the Rec Center as well.

With regard to the Sledding Hill:

- 1) There will be no manufactured snow (so there probably won't be much sledding)
- 2) It's a Sledding Hill, not for skiing or snowboarding.
- 3) There will be no monitor or staffing at the hill.
- 4) The question of Township liability with regard to injuries resulting from said sledding. As above with the Dog Park, enter (or in this case sled) at your own risk. The Township will have to have adequate signage to address the fact that the Township is not liable for any injuries resulting from activities at the Sledding Hill.
- 5) There will be no additional lighting.
- 6) The hours will be dawn till dusk.

There are still questions remaining about how many existing trees will need to be cleared and whether or not there is any plan to purchase and replace (in another area) the trees that are cut down.

The Bike Path is still a work in progress. Moving through the Great Cedar Swamp is a challenge! There appears to be a glimmer of hope with Atlantic City Electric and utilizing the electric lines right of way. AC Electric is looking at where and what Dennis Township wants to do with said Bike Path. They are interested in coordinating efforts for future plans to see this Bike Path to fruition. Be patience folks and think positively!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15pm

Motioned by Brad Rosenthal and seconded by Frank Hoff.

Respectfully submitted by Alma W. George, Temporary Recording Secretary