

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – September 8, 2021
Chairperson Brian Sulewski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Notice Statement – The Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied by notification to the Hunterdon County Democrat and by posting with the Township Clerk and on the Delaware Township bulletin board on January 12, 2021. This meeting was held via Zoom because the Township Building was not available due to an emergency FEMA meeting necessitated by the Hurricane Ida disaster. Notice of the change was provided by Deputy Township Clerk Tiffany Crivelli.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Joe Benincasa, Tyler Kadezabek, Heather Opdyke, Steve Smotrich Tim Soltis, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry
Absent: Rebecca Burns, Tim Drew, Charles Herman
Also Present: Jes Stahl, Erin Buchanan

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of July 5, 2021 – Joe moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 4, 2021, and Linda seconded motion. A correction was made to the minutes, and with this correction, members present approved the minutes.

REPORTS

Teen Report

Tyler said there will be a teen roller skating event at the Frenchtown Roller Rink in September. Members agreed to include students from sixth grade through high school. The Township will rent the rink for two hours for Delaware Township use. Skaters will pay for skate rentals. Members moved, seconded and approved this event. Tyler will determine the date and promote it among teens.

Tyler said the softball field at the Dilts Park is not playable due to conditions following Hurricane Ida on September 1st. Brian said he will mention it to the Department of Public Works. Joe said the team who repaired the Somerset Patriots baseball field may be able to assist.

Brian asked Tyler to bring another possible teen event to the October meeting.

RECREATIONAL TENNIS AT DILTS

Brant Switzler described a proposal to run a recreational instructional tennis program at the Dilts Park. Members liked the idea. They discussed various payment options to Brant. Elsewhere he has bought court time for private instruction. He has never run a municipal recreation program. Members thought Brant should handle the registrations and logistics of running the program. After continued discussion members agreed to run a pilot program this fall at the Dilts Park tennis court. One court will be reserved on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. Adult instruction may be held during the first session because soccer runs on Saturday mornings. Brant said his father will assist. The maximum number of players will be eight for youth and six for adults. Members asked Brant to arrange for his insurance to cover the Township. He will need a background check.

Members continued discussion on payment – whether Brant would rent court time, be paid an hourly rate, or be paid a percentage of registration fees collected. They discussed whether Brant should be hired as a Township employee, similar to the Summer Recreation Program counselors.

Brant offered to run a free Tennis Open House on October 2nd to introduce the program. The Commission could formally vote to sponsor a recreational tennis program at its October 4th meeting, and classes could start on October 9th. Brant will work on insurance coverage.

Diana Garibaldi asked how the Commission will ensure that only Township residents are allowed to participate. Brian said the registration form will indicate “For Township Residents”. He said the Commission gives some leeway to non-resident grandchildren of residents for the Summer Recreation Program.

REIMER WALKING TRAIL

Diana Garibaldi said the farmer who farms the Reimer tract has not yet mowed the field this year. Walkers are still using the walking trail. There is more activity on it. Most walk animals on leashes longer than six feet. Steve Wilbur said the Township is mowing the trail. Diana said they erected an eight foot fence along their property line. They mow on the Reimer side of the fence to maintain their view. Members said they should not mow on Township property. Steve said it is a deer fence along the rear line to keep the deer out. They have an access gate. He said there are no signs posted along the trail advising walkers of the requirement to leash dogs.

Members agreed that the Township will be coordinating all Park uses following the completion of a Park Master Plan. The Township Committee approved hiring a professional planner to prepare a Plan.

REPORTS CONTINUED

Board of Education

Heather reported that School started today. Back to School Night is October 14. The School has started a weekly newsletter, “The Wildcat Weekly”. The newsletter can include information on Recreation Commission activities. The Board will decide at its next meeting on the Commission’s request to use DTS facilities for adult and teen recreational indoor soccer and volleyball.

DTAA

Brian said Tim Drew resigned as DTAA President. He has accepted a job as Chief of Detectives with the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office. He has resigned from his several volunteer Township positions including the Recreation Commission. Soccer begins this weekend.

Open Space

Steve said there is nothing new to report.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS

Dilts Park Facility Use Application – None

PARK PLANNER UPDATE

The Township Committee authorized hiring a Park Planner. Steve said CFO Diane McDaniel

and the Township Attorney are working on the Request for Proposal. Tim hoped the planner has grant experience.

COMMITTEES:

Fishing Derby – Tim reported that the Fishing Derby was a tremendous success. There were over one hundred children at the event, and a lot of fish were caught including a 16 inch bass. The Derby's sponsors including Skip's Outdoors, Shop Rite of Flemington, Pates Property Management, Shawn VanDoren Freeholder, Fred Brown for Sheriff, Marfy Melfi for County Clerk, and New Balance of Princeton. They were extremely generous with food, prizes, and donations. Members said Tim did a great job as Master of Ceremonies.

Fall Fun Fireworks – This event will be held on September 18th (Rain Date September 19th) at the Dilts Park starting at 4 p.m. with fireworks around 7:30 p.m. People are welcome to bring a picnic and beverages. Brian said a State Police helicopter will land at the Park. Cones and caution tape will be used for parking and to restrict access to the launch area. Hunterdon County is using its electronic signs for Ida disaster notifications. Fireworks debris cleanup will be Sunday morning.

Linda said the Park was hit hard by Ida including damage to the softball field, portions of walking trail and the driveway entrance. The DPW is overwhelmed with repair work from Ida.

Yard Sale – Judy said everything is set for the Yard sale on September 18th (rain date 9/19). Signs will be posted, it will be advertised in the newspaper, and posted on the Township website. The list of addresses will be posted on the website, and paper copies will be available at the Township Building.

Plant Swap – Jes Stahl said the Swap will be October 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park.

Community Block Day – This event will be held October 2nd on the Sergeantsville Green. Steve said a band will play from 4 to 8 p.m. Brian sent Hunterdon County a request to close a portion of Rt. 604. He will remind the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company of the event and offer it the opportunity to grill and sell food. He will arrange for port-a-potties. Members agreed to get an ice cream truck and pay for ice cream.

Adult and Teen Recreation at DTS – The request to use DTS for adult and teen indoor volleyball and basketball has been submitted.

Halloween Activity – Will be discussed at the next meeting

Holiday Decorating Contest – Will be discussed at a future meeting

Scavenger Hunt – May be held next summer.

OLD BUSINESS – DPW Director Jay Trstensky obtained a \$397,000 quote to replace the tennis courts. More quotes are needed. Steve asked about the accessible playground grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Brian said the Townships should first wait for the Park Master Plan. There will be more money in future years.

NEW BUSINESS –

Membership – Tim Drew and Julie have resigned leaving two regular member positions vacant. Erin Buchanan said she is interested in being a member. Tim Soltis moved to recommend Erin as a regular member, Steve seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion. Jes Stahl said she is also interested in joining the Commission. Linda moved to recommend Jes as a regular member, Judy seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion.

Members discussed a possible recognition at the Community Block Party for the late Josh Petrucelli who donated the evergreen tree on the Sergeantsville Green.

Jes said the kiosk at the Dilts Park across from the Pavilion is not used. She suggested painting it with chalkboard paint for notices. Members agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. IN PERSON