

**East Pikeland Township
Park and Recreation Board Meeting
January 19, 2012**

Park and Recreation Members Present: Jerry Miller, Caesar Muzzioli, Mike Sisti, Shannon Wood, Rick Bullotta Staff: Kim Moretti, Township Manager Guests: Supervisor Rusty Strauss, resident Sean McShane

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Reorganization

Caesar nominated Jerry Miller to serve as Chairman. Shannon seconded motion and it passed unanimously. Caesar agreed to serve as Secretary to record meeting minutes.

Old Business

French Creek Trail - Eagle Scout Projects

Kim Moretti brought the board up to date on the Eagle Scout project that blazed ½ mile of trail from Rapps Dam Road towards Township Line Road. The project was completed in the fall and includes a stream crossing that the scouts built with railroad ties.

Another scout has expressed interest in a trail blazing project. Kim Moretti walked the trail with him and he is going to put together a project proposal for consideration by the Board at a later meeting.

French Creek Trail - Bridge update

Kim Moretti reported that the DEP Permit for the new bridge at Rapps Dam has been approved. The manufacturing of the bridge will take 12 weeks. Radio Salvacion, who will be paying for the project, was told not to order the bridge yet because the expense of this bridge is serving as a match to the recently awarded DCNR grant for the trail. It is anticipated that the bridge can be installed in August.

French Creek Trail – Grant / Funding Update

Kim Moretti reported that the township has been awarded a DCNR trail construction grant in the amount of \$213,600. No funds (or matching funds) from the grant can be spent until the formal grant agreement is executed (probably by the end of March). The township was also awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Schuylkill Highlands for interpretive signage to explain the historical significance of sites along the trail. Kim plans to apply to Chester County for additional grant funding for the trail. Applications are due in February.

Board discussion on how to use the DCNR grant funds and prioritizing work items:

Porous paving of road from Rapps Dam Road to new bridge (after bridge is constructed)	\$ 60,000
Handicapped parking area	\$ 4,800
Engineering for 2 nd bridge at Massaro property	\$ 10,400
Signage	\$ 1,200
Amenities – trash cans, benches, dog clean up stations	\$ 7,000
Landscaping / fencing at private properties	\$ 14,000
Landscape consultant services	\$ 5,000
Preliminary total	\$102,400

Township-wide Trail Plan – The plan has been drafted by Ed Theurkauf and reviewed by the Planning Commission. The plan will be adopted as part of the comprehensive plan update process. The Park & Rec Board will need to play a role in carrying out the plan. The Board will need to give feedback on which trails should be priorities; what projects should be pursued now and what should be future projects; does the township need to acquire properties or easements in order to build these trails; who owns the lands we may need; how much will this all cost?

Rick Bullotta feels the priority should be to link the French Creek Trail with the Schuylkill River Trail. A plan for Phoenixville's construction of the Schuylkill River Trail was reviewed. The question is how to get the French Creek Trail over Route 23 and link in Phoenixville. Rick suggested that we meet with Phoenixville and Schuylkill representatives to discuss.

Rick and Sean would also like to see development of trails on the Woodbridge open space. This area would be easy to develop because social trails already exist.

This will be the subject of future meeting and Kim Moretti will prepare an outline for further discussion on this topic.

Northern Federation Park, Recreation and Open Space Study – Kim Moretti updated the Board on the PROS plan that is scheduled to be adopted in March. She encouraged board members to attend a Park & Recreation Summit to all area Park & Recreation volunteers in South Coventry Township on February 27th.

New Business

Eagle Scout Project Proposal – Aaron Kramer from Boy Scout Troop 158 in Kimberton presented an Eagle Scout project idea for Kimberton Park. He proposed making bird houses and bat houses for installation at the park and asked the Board for feedback. It was suggested that he research the types of birds and bats for this area and build houses to accommodate those species. It was also suggested that he prepare an educational display to post in the existing bulletin boards.

New Ideas??

Shannon would like to see the Board pursue the ice rink idea for next winter. Planning should begin now so that we are ready to implement for winter 2012/13 season. Jerry Miller reported that he had looked into utilizing the roller hockey court for this use, but the court is not level and would require too much water at one end, so another location will be needed. The Board will discuss further at the next meeting with the hope that Jeff Grable will be present since he had initially proposed the idea.

Sean McShane proposed having a Spring Clean Up Day along the French Creek and existing trails. In addition to litter clean-up, volunteers could destroy invasive plants/vines that are killing trees. This would be a good way to identify interested volunteers to form a "Friends of the Trail" organization. A date will be selected at the February meeting.

Upcoming Event

Easter Egg Hunt – scheduled for March 31st at Kimberton Park; 10 a.m. Volunteers needed.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m. **Next meeting scheduled for February 16th at 7 p.m.**