

**East Pikeland Township
Park & Recreation Board Meeting
April 19, 2012**

Present: Jerry Miller, Shannon Wood, Rick Bullotta, Sean McShane
Guest: Al Koons Staff: Kim Moretti

Meeting began at 7pm

Old Business

Easter Egg Hunt – originally scheduled for March 31 but moved to the rain date of April 7th, the Saturday before Easter. Event was well attended. A few suggestions were made to improve the event.

- 1) Plan event for the Saturday before Easter again (rain or shine) since it does not interfere with the KYAL opening day schedule.
- 2) Do not have any age group in the playground area because the children who arrive early want to play there. Possibly move the 8-10 year olds to the KYAL field or another location.
- 3) NEED FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS – to help “hide” eggs and to help with crowd control.
- 4) Provide a basket of extra candy to the volunteers in each age group so that children who are late or do not get many eggs can be given a handful of candy.
- 5) Consider a second costumed character since photos with the Easter Bunny were so popular.

French Creek Trail – Kim Moretti announced that the township received a second grant for the trail. The grant, from Chester County, is for \$123,000 and will help pay for the second pedestrian bridge at the Massaro property. Jerry Miller will be marking the property corners and surveying the location for the bridge. The township engineer will begin the site plans and the permitting process.

Bridge at Rapps Dam – DCNR has authorized the township to start spending funds from the State grant (\$213,600). The bridge at Rapps Dam, which is being donated by Radio Salvacion, is a match to that grant. Radio Salvacion has signed a contract with Contech – the bridge designer and manufacturer. DEP has issued the permit for the creek crossing. We anticipate this bridge being installed in August.

Acquisition – Kim reported that in April the township accepted dedication of the 3.5 acres of open space along the creek adjacent to the Villas at French Creek. The last parcel where we need an easement in order to take the trail to Township Line Road is the Shrawder/Brownfields property and Kim plans to contact the property owner to discuss.

Trail Blazing projects – a second Boy Scout trail blazing project has begun along the creek. Jared Laird of Troop 58 in Phoenixville is blazing the section of the trail from the Hares Hill trailhead to the location of the second bridge at the Massaro property (for which we have a trail easement).

Trail Signage – Kim Moretti asked for input from the Park & Rec Board on the type of signage to be located at the trailheads. A three or four-sided kiosk was recommended. The different sides should include the following:

- 1) Basic community announcements / Friends of French Creek information
- 2) Map of trail and historic points along the trail
- 3) Rules and Regulations for the trail. The Board suggested that the list previously presented be reduced and not as restrictive. Rules listed below were based on previous discussion with changes shown.
 - Trail is open from dawn to dusk
 - Keep pets on leash and remove any pet waste
 - No motor vehicles allowed – except emergency vehicles
 - Respect the rights of adjacent property owners – Stay on trail
 - Bicycles – Yield to pedestrians – Give warning when passing
 - No littering, No smoking, No consumption of alcohol or other illicit substances
 - ~~No hunting or trapping, no firearms~~ – (*since township owned properties are already posted for No Hunting*)
 - ~~No loud music~~

Handicapped Accessibility – the French Creek Trail Plan shows handicapped parking located next the paved portion of the trail, right off of Rapps Dam Road. It was recently discovered that this piece of land is owned by the National Guard Armory and that the tax map that showed this as township property was wrong. Therefore, a new location needs to be identified for handicapped parking. Kim will work with planner Ed Theurkauf on options.

Trail Clean-Up – 2 clean-up days have been held, as organized by Sean McShane; one in March where multiflora rose, vines and other invasives were removed and the other on April 15 where local Girl Scouts cleaned up along the old railroad bed off of Rapps Dam Road. The Girl Scouts plan to have a similar activity to celebrate Earth Day every year.

Weekly Trail Hikes – Sean McShane provided a proposed schedule for Saturday morning hikes of the French Creek Trail. Sean will lead anyone who shows up and asked that the schedule be posted on the township website and sent out to those residents who have signed on to the Friends of French Creek.

Date	Time	Trail Route	Meeting Place
21-Apr	9 AM	French Creek Trail downstream on the Red Trail	Rapps Dam Road /Snyders Mill
28-Apr	9 AM	French Creek Trail upstream to Bridge #1 location	Rapps Dam Road /Snyders Mill
12-May	9 AM	French Creek Trail from Hares Hill Road to Bridge #2	Hares Hill Road at Silver Bridge
19-May	9 AM	Powder Mill Trail From EP township Building to Kimberton Road	East Pikeland Township Parking Lot
26-May	9 AM	French Creek Trail downstream on the Red Trail	Rapps Dam Road /Snyders Mill
2-Jun	9 AM	French Creek Trail upstream to Bridge #1 location	Rapps Dam Road /Snyders Mill

Sean also proposed holding workshops on various recreational and environmental topics, including:

- Forest regeneration
- Rain gardens
- Trail blazing, sustainable trail building
- composting

These could perhaps be held in conjunction with the township’s Environmental Advisory Council. Rick informed the group that he has been trained in sustainable trail building. Kim suggested that any scout working on a trail blazing project should meet with Rick before beginning their project.

Friends of French Creek Trail – several residents have responded to the call for volunteers in the township’s spring newsletter. Park & Rec Board should continue to promote and encourage involvement. The purpose of this group would be to: promote use of the French Creek Trail, help patrol the trail, help to maintain the trail, plan activities/hikes along the trail and educate the public on various programs.

Kim will notify those people who have signed up as “Friends” about the weekly hikes planned by Sean.

Township Wide Trail Plan – Rick Bullotta would like to see the township concentrate on developing the portion of the proposed Kimberton Loop Trail that would go through the Atria/ Woodbridge open space. Social trails already exist through this property. The open space is offered for perpetual dedication to the township. Kim will discuss with the Board of Supervisors.

It was discussed again that the priority should be to create a link from the French Creek Trail to the Schuylkill River Trail while not relying on Phoenixville Borough to provide

that link at an uncertain future date. Rick proposed that trail users could walk along Rapps Dam, Mowere and Township Line Roads to get to the trailhead near Cromby.

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night is scheduled for September 15th. At this time the movie is undecided. The township staff asked if the Park & Rec Board would like to see other activities planned prior to the start of the movie. The Board agreed and suggested activities in conjunction with the Kimberton Fire Co. or similar to what was offered at Community Day in the past.

Rick suggested we consider having a publically televised Phillies game on a big screen at the park one night this summer. The technicalities would have to be worked out.

New Business

Sean McShane had attended the public meeting on the Comprehensive Plan update and reported that a couple of other residents at that meeting are looking for a location to play bocce. Sean questioned whether there would be a location at Kimberton Park for such a use. Kim will look into bocce court specifications and report back.

It was also suggested that a horseshoe pit or Frisbee golf could be added to Kimberton Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting date: May 17 at 7 p.m.