

**East Pikeland Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD**

September 16, 2021

Minutes

Present: Al Koons, Joanne Jones, Lindsey Parsons, Heidi Ferry, & Bruce Wunderley

Absent: Sean McShane & Andrew Batten

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Al Koons called the meeting to order at 7pm. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the September monthly meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom application via telephone and the internet, and also in-person at the Township Building.

Lindsey motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Bruce seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Lindsey motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Bruce seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business

1. 2022 Project Discussion: The board discussed needed and planned improvements to Kimberton Park and the French Creek Trail for 2022.
 - Kimberton Park: Park landscaping (landscape beds, parking lot boxes, rain garden, dead tree removal, etc.); tennis and hockey court resurfacing; playground signs; and a rain garden interpretive sign.
 - Projects still planned for 2021 include: re-shingle the bathroom roof; re-paint the lines in the parking lot; and install amphitheater lighting.
 - French Creek Trail: Native plantings at Hares Hill trail head to combat invasives; trail improvements with Valley Forge Sewer Authority from Rapps Dam to the second pedestrian bridge; trail improvements from Rapps trail head towards Township Line Road; improving the stone at Rapps Dam Trail Head; expand and improve the Hares Hill Trail Head, considering paving. Projects for the new trail expansion on Woodbridge would include trail blazing and clearing; signage; and cribbed steps.
2. Cromby Properties and Walk
 - Michelle reported on two properties near Hidden River that the Open Space Committee is currently seeking appraisals for. One property abuts Hidden River Park and Preserve and includes the Schuylkill River Trail; the other is across Spring City Road and is completely wooded and difficult to access. A walk will be planned with the Open Space Committee to discuss potential uses for the properties; Michelle will email with potential dates.

Old Business

1. Kimberton Park & French Creek Trail Maintenance
 - Kimberton Park: Michelle reported that Jack Ringenbach has completed the kiosk by the amphitheater in the park and was great to work with. Matt has recently been

dealing with wasps living in the retention wall at the park and an underground water leak. The tennis court crack will be addressed once we have a dry week.

- French Creek Trail: The trail was impacted by recent flooding. Stone has washed away from trail heads and will be re-placed. The Hares Hill kiosk was uprooted and a few picnic tables and trash cans are still missing. Matt and Michelle also walked the trail with a representative from Valley Forge Sewer Authority to discuss trail improvements.
- Hidden River: Michelle reported that Matt and Gene had been on the property in the riparian corridor marking dead, dying, and invasive trees for removal.

2. Woodbridge Trail Development Update

- Mountain Bike Walk Recap: Al reported that the walk had a great turn out and discussion. The Mountain Bike group will now discuss, flag, and map trail ideas and share their draft plan with the Board.
- Step Build: Michelle reported on a trail building workshop she and Matt attended the past weekend. Guidance from the workshop about trail planning led to the decision to cancel the step build planned for October. They feel that a more thought through trail plan and trail needs to be in place before building steps that will guide people onto a trail that is not planned and ready for them. The Board agreed and the step build will be considered as a 2022 project instead.

3. 2021 events

- Children's Theater Recap
 - Al reported a great turn out with 250-300 people in attendance. Kimberton Art Alliance had a few volunteers there as well. Kona Ice was popular. The Board commented that this was a great event with high turnout but low volunteer effort needed.
 - The Board discussed the parking issues happening at Kimberton Whole Foods for Township events and rental events. It has been difficult to keep people from parking in their lot and abiding by signage. Michelle shared that she received an email from KWF about the issue as well; they suggested requiring a person to stand at the entrance and adding more signage. Al Koons asked if a fee could be incurred upon renters above a certain event size that would pay for a police officer to sit at Kimberton Whole Foods to direct traffic. Michelle will talk with Susette about the possibility. The Board also asked if the Township could approach C. Raymond Davis about using their parking area for more handicap parking for weekend events.
- Summer Concerts Series #3 Recap
 - The final performance by the Sermon was well attended with around 300 people. The Pizza sold out quickly, they may not have been prepared for an event like this which is something to consider in the future. Lighting was an issue at the end, which will hopefully be addressed by the new amphitheater lighting.
- Date Night Movie Night, 8/28
 - This event was not well attended for the second year in a row. Lindsey commented that the time of year might not be the best because it's the last weekend of summer. Al proposed that the Date Night Movie be cancelled for next year, as the financial input hasn't been matching the community interest. All board members agreed.
- KAMF 9/25
 - Michelle reminded the Board that the Festival will run from 3-7pm next Saturday. There are 11 art, craft, and nonprofit vendors and two food vendors. The

committee discussed arrival times, parking issues, and food for the concessions stand. Jerry Miller, former Park and Rec. Board Member will be recognized at the event for his many years of service to the Township; the Board discussed the best time for his recognition.

- Family Movie Night 10/2
 - A Bugs Life is the selected movie. Michelle asked that volunteers arrive between 5:30pm and 5:45pm to set up. People will arrive around 6pm for seating and the movie will begin around 6:30pm.
- Moonwalk 10/22
 - Michelle reminded the committee that the event is 5 weeks away and the plan for the event needs to be discussed. Al suggested that a group meet next week to discuss plans for the event. Michelle will reach out with availability.
- Hidden River Clean Up 11/6
 - Al reminded the Board that the Fall Trail Clean Up has been moved to Hidden River in order to address trash in the riparian corridor. Meet at 9am at the farmstead, 873 Spring City Rd. Matt will lead the cleanup efforts.

4. 2022 Events

- Snow Place Like the FCT 1/22 at 3pm
 - Michele reminded the committee that she won't be present at this event. Al suggested that they discuss the layout if there is time next week. Michelle will send a list of ideas to the committee.
- Date Night Movie Night
 - As previously discussed, this event will be cancelled for 2022.

Public Comment:

- Lisa Vorel, East Pikeland Resident, asked how the Township solicits community volunteers for projects and events. Michelle and Al both responded with current communication tools being used to reach area residents. She also asked if we had received the results of the NPDES permit and soil testing. Michelle reported that they have not received the results as the engineer working on the project passed away suddenly. LTL has re-assigned the project and Michelle will report when the results are back. In addition, Lisa asked how food vendors are solicited and what are the criteria for selection. Michelle explained that food trucks have to have a license through the Chester County Health Department. Finally, Lisa wanted to reiterate that she opposes the Dog Park.
- Don Szabo, East Pikeland Resident, asked if Kimberton Park had ever been tested for environmental concerns. Michelle replied that there was more than likely testing done when the park went in, but she wasn't here at the time so couldn't confirm officially. Don also suggested that the lumber for the cribbed steps be purchased next year for a cheaper price.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

The next Park & Recreation meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021.