

MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
August 4, 2020

The meeting of the North Lebanon Township Parks & Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building located at 725 Kimmerlings Road, North Lebanon Township. The pledge to the flag was recited.

The following members were present:

Dwayne Elder	Chair
Corey Hetrick	Vice Chair
Kathy Sattazahn	Member
Ryan Schmidt	Member
Mark Grumbine	Member
Lori Books	Assistant Township Manager

Dave Strohm, Park & Rec Foreman, Robert Eastlack, 2014 Walnut St, Steve Kissinger, 440 Orchid Cir, and Virginia Witmer, 908 Sweetbay Ln, were also in attendance.

Welcome – Lori would like to welcome the newest Park & Rec Board Member, Mark Grumbine. Mark is fulfilling the unexpired term of Gary Zelinski.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Virginia Witmer has attended tonight’s meeting to discuss pickleball possibilities at the NLT Community Park. She began by thanking the Township for the purchases and additional maintenance they have done thus far to help improve the court. With the number of players attending every morning, they could be playing two games at once, but currently cannot due to having only one court lined. They are requesting the Township paint a second set of lines for an additional court. Robert asked if the Township would consider either unlocking the restroom facility nearby, move the current port-a-potty closer, or bring in a second port-a-potty. This group comes to play 5 days a week, so any improvements would be appreciated.

Lori gave the Park & Rec members an update on this topic. This group has been waiting to attend a Park & Rec meeting for the past few months, however, this board has not met recently due to COVID-19 and then a lack of a quorum. The group has approached the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at their June meeting and the BOS agreed to purchase a new tennis net and reline the tennis court. They are asking the Township to paint pickleball lines on both sides of the tennis net to accommodate two courts.

A second request letter was submitted offering the following suggestions: fill in the rest of the bottom of the fence with gravel to prevent the balls from leaving the area, paint or tape a second pickleball court, consider opening the restrooms or moving the portable toilet closer, and purchasing a portable pickleball net for their use. Robert mentioned the portable net is currently on sale for about \$150.00. In addition to the requests in the letter, the group is asking the Township to purchase a windscreen to hang on the fence. This would also help to block the sun.

Lori and the members discussed several options if they move forward with these requests/suggestions. The pickleball group could possibly be treated like the other sport associations in that they could sign out a key to have access to the restrooms as well as wherever equipment would be stored.

Virginia mentioned the possibility of purchasing of a lockbox/ storage box that the group could have access to. It would be locked and fastened to the fence. This could hold nets, balls, rackets, and portable chairs for the members.

Dwayne is in favor of moving forward with lining two courts. Multiple members also agreed that purchasing a windscreen (if not this year, then next depending on the budget) would be a good idea. This would have to be put up and taken down seasonally.

The Park & Rec Board members are recommending moving forward with lining two pickleball courts with paint, purchasing a portable pickleball net, purchasing the windscreen, maybe purchasing the lockbox, and looking into a restroom key agreement.

Chair Elder asked if there were any additions or corrections or a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to approve the March minutes. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT-Lori Books

Update on Unfinished/Old Business

GO Lebanon Update – Lori was contacted by the woman in charge of the “GO Lebanon” program. She was asking if they are still permitted to use our park for this program and stated they will be following all recommendations from the CDC regarding COVID-19. A few tweaks have been made which include posting signs recommending facemasks and maintaining a safe distance as well as allowing participants to take pictures of the sites and submit them. The results of the number of visitors who participated will be given to Lori at the end of the summer.

Vandalism – Vandalism occurred at Lenni Lenape where a vehicle was doing donuts in the stone lot. This disrupts the lot itself and scatters stone throughout the grass. A camera was set up to catch the vehicle/license plate number of the person responsible. The individual was caught on camera and the police department sent them a warning letter. To Dave’s knowledge, it has not happened since.

DCNR Grant – The DCNR Grant application for the Lions Lake Rehabilitation was submitted on April 22nd. The Park & Rec Board members were able to contribute their thoughts at previous meetings, Lori was not able to show them the final application prior to submission as the April meeting was cancelled due to COVID. The Township had been advised to go after a Federal Grant as it will increase their chances.

Park Inspections – Park inspections were completed in the Spring. There were no major concerns.

New Plans/Fees In Lieu Of (FILO)

Crossings Phase 3 – Phase 3 includes 28 lots. The FILO for this plan have already been paid.

Horn – One lot was subdivided off the tree farm to create a single-family residential lot. The FILO have been paid for this plan.

Stoever’s Circle – The Township received plans for a proposed development off N 8th Avenue. They are proposing 54 lots and 32 garden apartments. This plan is still under review and the final number of lots may change so no agreement was prepared yet for FILO.

New Business

Bench & Tree Dedications –Two trees and one bench were dedicated at Lenni Lenape.

Pickleball Request – Discussed under public comments.

FILO – Resolution 12-2020 – The Township asked Steckbeck Engineering to complete a study on the Fees in Lieu Of rate as it had not been updated for 10-15 years. The study indicated we could be charging up to \$5,214.15 per dwelling unit, however the Supervisors felt that would have been too much of a jump. Our current rate is \$1,250/unit. This Resolution was approved at their May 18th meeting. Any plans submitted after that date will be subject to the new fee of \$2,200.00 per lot.

FILO – Resolution 14-2020 and Ordinance No. 6-2020 – This Resolution sets the minimum amount of land required for dedication to be reserved for park, recreation, or open space. A minimum of .03 acres of land shall be reserved per dwelling unit, however

a minimum of two (2) acres is required. The Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 14-2020 and Ord. No. 6-2020 at their June 15th meeting. Any plans submitted after that date will be subject to the new requirements.

Pavilion Rentals – Due to COVID-19 and the various restrictions and guidance provided by the State and the CDC, North Lebanon Township made an exception to their “no refund” policy. This virus was out of everyone’s hands and the administration felt it was unfair to force a rental to take place under the circumstances. Each party was given several options on how they wanted to handle their 2020 rental reservation. They could keep their date as planned, pick a later date this summer, roll over the fee to a 2021 rental reservation, or receive a refund. These are one-time only options as the summer of 2020 provided unique circumstances.

The park restrooms have remained locked during this summer season due to COVID cleaning requirements. The Parks Department does not have the resources or supplies needed for cleaning and disinfecting the restrooms every day. However, the Township felt if someone is renting one of the pavilions at our facility that should have access to the restroom. The bathrooms have been unlocked, cleaned, and disinfected for each pavilion rental.

Baseball Tournaments – With the ongoing COVID restrictions and guidelines, Solicitor Amy Leonard recommended the Township create an addendum to the sport association agreements outlining all the CDC guidelines for athletic associations due to the virus as well as providing volunteer and participant waiver forms. The sports associations must sign this agreement prior to using our facilities. They must also sign the provided volunteer and participant waivers holding the Township harmless if COVID is contracted. Our sports association teams would only need to turn this paperwork in once during the season, however any tournament teams not a part of our regular association league would need to fill out this paperwork (volunteer and participant waivers) for every tournament.

Dwayne questioned how New Covenant Christian School is handled as they use the Township’s fields. Lori responded that the school administration would be responsible for any and all paperwork as well as following and enforcing CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Signs on Park Restrooms – The Township was advised to post signs at all the parks regarding COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations. These signs provide tips to help stop the spread of the virus. A sign is also placed inside the pavilion for those renting to make them aware that the restrooms will be open for them.

Pertinent Issues –

Pickleball - Lori would like to revisit the pickleball topic now that the members have been filled in on everything and have had time to process. The Board Members considered allowing someone from the pickleball group to have access to a key to unlock and lock the restrooms. They discussed paying a fee. After some discussion, the members were all in agreement that a fee should not be charged as this is a public park and although it is organized, it is not an official sports association. Lori also stated the restrooms being unlocked would normally not be an issue because the restrooms are usually open all day. This year was unique because of COVID-19, hopefully this will not be an issue for much longer. The Board discussed programming the locks for the time frames this group is present and making them responsible for cleaning and disinfecting. The Board decided to leave this issue up to the Supervisors.

Lori asked Mark how Jonestown Borough handles their pickleball groups. He stated they have a combo pickleball/tennis court available and nets that he takes down every fall. There are no fees, but they do come before the Borough for approval. Their restrooms are also open to the public. They are disinfected every morning, Monday-Friday, but are not touched on the weekends. He also stated there have been a few vandalism issues in the past, but nothing recently.

Mark also brought up that if a storage box is bought, either by the Township or the pickleball members, and it is installed at the court, any type of vandalism or stealing is not the Township's responsibility. Dwayne stated the baseball association paid for the pitching/batting nets. It was mentioned that this group is not really like the sports association as they are a group of citizens wanting to use the facilities and do not have organized games against other teams.

The Board discussed allowing the group to purchase a storage box and place on Township property. The Board did not feel it was fair to make such an investment for a small group of people and then that group be the only ones who have access to it. If the Township were to purchase such items, all residents should have access to them. It was also discussed that if the Township would purchase a portable net, the net cannot be for just this specific pickleball group. It should be available for any residents from the Township. Since the pickleball nets would have to be portable, the Board feels the risk of theft would make purchasing the nets unfavorable. It was decided that any group wishing to use the pickleball courts should purchase their own portable net.

The members are in favor of helping this group start out as they are thrilled the courts are being used. They want to be consistent and fair as to how they treat other associations and groups. They agreed to creating two courts by painting the lines and purchasing the first windscreen. They feel if any group would like to play pickleball, they should provide their own net.

Baseball Association – permanent fence update – Dwayne asked Lori if she ever heard back from football about using the field at Long Lane. Lori said she did not, but she does

know cheerleading signed out a key to move their things out of the shed. Dwayne would still like to put up a permanent fence at the midget field. The outfield of the midget field and the football field overlap which is the biggest drawback of the permanent fence. If the Township were to permit a permanent fence, that would prevent football from ever returning. Lori does not know where the Board of Supervisors stand on that decision. She will ask and get back to Dwayne.

PARK & REC ACTIVITIES

Border Patrol continues at the lake to help control the goose population.

All new video camera equipment and automatic door locks are now installed.
All parks are being mowed and sprayed for weeds continually.

Lion's Lake – The Quarterly Dam Inspection was completed. Dave sprayed the dam breast for weeds and the lake was sprayed for algae.

Community Park – The soccer field was seeded and aerated. The restroom roof has been replaced. Dave ordered and installed a new tennis net for the court. The basketball court lines were repainted. All the playground equipment was power washed.

Lenni Lenape – Mulch was spread for disc golf. Dave seeded and aerated around the new walking path. The dedicated trees were sprayed for insects. The broken restroom window was replaced.

Long Lane – The stormwater basins at the teener field were relocated for better effectiveness. The walls, sidewalks, and steps were all power washed. New playground mulch was spread.

Volunteers – The Township had quite a few volunteer groups come out and work at the parks. Living Water Chapel was at Lions Lake on July 23rd and stained the wooden guard rails on the Jay St. parking side. They also weeded and mulched the dedicated trees.

A group from Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church (LAEFC) volunteered their time and worked at multiple parks. At Lenni Lenape, trash receptacles and benches were installed. The open-air pavilion, park rules sign, and disc golf were all stained, and playground mulch was spread. At the Community Park, the open-air pavilion, benches, and park rules sign were all stained. Trash was collected along the yardwaste facility and the Arbs toward the rear of the facility were all weeded and mulched. The outside steps leading to the mezzanine and pipe bollards were all painted. At Long Lane, trash was picked up, and the pavilion was stained.

This coming weekend, another group from LAEFC will be coming to work at Lions Lake.

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

With there being no more business brought before the Parks and Recreation Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Lum
Recording Secretary