

MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
May 3, 2022

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 Uhrich	Vice-Chair
Ryan Schmidt	Member
Mark Grumbine	Member
Audrey Blauch	Member
Lori Books	Assistant Township Manager

Dave Strohm, Parks & Rec Foreman, Cheri Grumbine, Township Manager, and Jim Cikovic, Township resident, were also in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

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

Corey stated he would like a correction on page 2. He does not agree with the sentence "He indicated that Dave should be doing more for the fields". He feels he was misunderstood, and it was not his intention to call out Dave. He would like "Dave" to be replaced with "the Township".

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to approve the April minutes with the correction noted above. Motion approved unanimously.

ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT-Lori Books

Old Business

Concession Stand for Future Stars Tournaments – The Board of Supervisors (BOS) discussed this at their April meeting and directed Lori to place it on the Parks & Rec agenda as the BOS did not want to act without a recommendation from the Parks & Rec Board. Lori referenced the drafted minutes from the BOS meeting so the Parks & Rec

Board members would have the same information that was presented to the BOS at their meeting. Supervisor Heisey informed the BOS about concerns regarding the concession stand operation after the normal baseball season ends. After the first weekend in July, the Future Stars Tournaments (FST) are the only teams using the fields at Long Lane. Ebenezer Baseball season is typically done the first week in July.

Dwayne purchases the remaining inventory for the concession stand from Ebenezer Baseball at the end of their season and continues to operate the concession stand throughout the FST season which ends in October. Lori read that Supervisor Heisey reported he reviewed the financial books for Ebenezer Baseball for the past three (3) years. There were zero deposits made to the Ebenezer Baseball Association from the concession stand after their season ended in the beginning of July. Any revenue being made from the concession stand after the beginning of July is not being turned over to the Ebenezer Baseball Association and is presumed to being kept by the Elder's. Dwayne stated they are not making any money off the concession stand and in fact may even lose money. Lori continued that the Township believes the Elder's should have an agreement with the Township just like any other person who wishes to operate a concession stand on Township property. They are not operating the concession stand for the Ebenezer Baseball Association as the left-over inventory is purchased by the Elder's to continue to operate the stand for the FST.

Ebenezer Baseball receives \$25.00 per game and the Township receives \$50.00 per game. The person maintaining the fields/in charge of the tournaments (field director) is paid directly from FST and Ebenezer Baseball does not receive any of that money.

The out of state tournaments are costing the Township more with utilities and other maintenance items than what is being brought in.

Ryan commented, from the viewpoint of someone who maintains a facility, he does not enjoy when out of state tournaments use their fields. He has nothing against those who choose to play travel ball, but feels they use and abuse any field. His employer increased their fees high enough that the out of state teams no longer are willing to pay the price to play on their fields. They didn't want those teams on their fields. The tournament fees they were collecting were not covering the cost of everything he had to do afterwards for maintenance. Ryan stated they were destroying their fields and left a mess behind.

Dwayne stated this isn't the case for the FST at the Long Lane fields. The maintenance of cutting the grass should not be included as it would be done regardless of teams playing there. He said the Township received over \$3,000.00 in fees last year and there is no way that doesn't cover the maintenance of water, sewer, electric, and garbage.

Cheri stated they also need to consider the damage/wear and tear these extra games cause to the fields. Dwayne asked what damage she is referring to because he maintains the field and any damage that occurs. The Township doesn't do any of that or pay for

the materials. Cheri asked who pays for the materials? Dwayne stated Ebenezer Baseball pays for the materials. He stated that Ebenezer Baseball gets reimbursed for anything used and makes money off the tournaments. Cheri and Lori stated they were told that the \$25.00 per game is not worth it for the Ebenezer Baseball Association.

Cheri explained there has been damage to the fences from players warming up and hitting balls into the fence. Dwayne said if that happens it isn't necessarily from these teams as there are regular season games held there too. He is at almost every game, and they do not hit balls into the fences, they use the batting cage. He said whoever is claiming that is not being honest.

Corey stated he does not appreciate the accusations of batted balls into the fence being their fault. It is hearsay unless Township employees are at every game and witnessing this act and can say for a fact this is who caused the damage. Why weren't they notified of the damage before? Corey asked Cheri where she is getting her information; is it something she has witnessed or is she hearing it from someone else? Cheri stated it is information from someone else, which she believes to be a very reliable source.

Lori asked what recommendation the Parks & Rec Board would like to make to the BOS. Dwayne stated he will take the concession stand out of the mix. He just won't do run the stand anymore. This recommendation will only be on whether the Township should allow FST at the Township fields. Dwayne stated the only time the concession stand would be open after the regular season ends is if Little League runs a fall program.

Dwayne stated, if there is any profit made, it goes back to the Ebenezer Baseball Association. Lori stated that Supervisor Heisey informed the BOS that he went back three (3) years and did not have any deposits from Dwayne from the concession stand after July 2nd. Dwayne and Corey both stated that must mean he didn't make any profit the last three (3) years.

Lori asked Dave how often he cleans up on a Monday after weekend games? There is often trash left behind in the dugouts and the spectator seating area which takes him extra time to clean up. Dave responded that this is a regular occurrence even during regular season games. Lori explained this is additional Township time spent at the fields from these tournaments. Dwayne said he is there before and after every tournament to clean up. He stated it is a public park, so it isn't necessarily trash from the baseball games.

Lori explained the fees vary across the county for field usage. Some charge less, some charge more, and some don't allow out of state tournaments at all. Corey asked if she is suggesting they raise the fees for FST? Lori stated it should be discussed so we can resolve these issues once and for all. She asked Dwayne if they aren't making any money from these tournaments why do we care if these teams play on our fields or not. Dwayne explained it was a way his son could make some money, as the field maintenance

director, before heading off to college. He stated it has been burning them out so maybe quitting the concession stand would be the best option all around.

Dwayne reiterated the Ebenezer Baseball Association is indeed making money off these tournaments. He sees the money coming in, he knows what the materials cost as he orders them through Corey, and he knows that they get reimbursed if FST uses above and beyond what is there. He does not agree with Gary's statements of it not being worth it for Ebenezer Baseball as they are certainly making money.

Lori explained they are hearing differently from Gary about not receiving any more deposits after July, which is the end of the regular baseball season. Dwayne stated they are being reimbursed 100%. Dwayne said there wouldn't be any deposits or documentation of reimbursement as FST make out one check to Ebenezer Baseball for the field usage and it includes any material cost with it. They won't issue a separate payment. Lori was referring to any deposits made from the concession stand and not from the FST.

Audrey asked if it is profitable for Ebenezer Baseball to hold these Future Star Tournaments? Dwayne stated if we go by Gary's numbers and comments, no. However, Dwayne believes that it is.

Lori stated she doesn't understand how the concession stand can make money during the regular baseball season but is not making any profits the remainder of the year from the FST. Dwayne said it is because he lowers the price to get rid of the inventory. He doesn't want to have any inventory left that would go to waste. Lori questioned why they don't base inventory purchases off the previous year so that they don't have an overabundance of items left over? Dwayne said he likes to have enough in stock because if he would run out early, they would lose sales and they want Ebenezer Baseball to make as much money as they can.

Dwayne stated he will gladly stop running the concession stand during FST season as it has created more of a mess than a benefit at this point. They weren't making money off the inventory, so it won't affect the numbers too much. He would be in favor of still hosting tournaments as it is a way that Ebenezer Baseball makes some money. Now that they have joined Little League, they are losing revenue from registration and fundraising as it all goes directly to Little League.

Audrey asked how much money Ebenezer Baseball would potentially lose if they decided to take the tournaments away? Dwayne said it depends on the number of games they play. Normally, the fields are used two (2) weekends a month which would be about five (5) games per weekend. The cost is \$75.00 per game, the Township gets \$50.00 per game, and Ebenezer Baseball gets \$25.00 per game. This would compute to Ebenezer Baseball making \$125.00 per weekend, minus a bag of clay and/or a clay brick here or there. Lori reported there were 81 games last year to which the Township collected

\$2,925.00. Dwayne stated the amount collected by the Township should easily cover the summer utilities and maintenance.

The Little League program has mentioned the possibility of holding a fall season and using the Long Lane fields. The location is central to the various areas of kids participating in Little League. The fall season is not definite at this point.

Audrey commented that it might be time to raise the rates. Dwayne informed her that they were doubled from last year's fees increasing them from \$25.00 per game to \$50.00 per game. Audrey did not realize they were just recently increased.

Audrey asked if registration fees are being paid for the regular baseball season that is currently happening. Dwayne explained since they joined Little League, all registration fees go to their program, not Ebenezer Baseball. That is for the midget program. Ebenezer Baseball still exists for the teener program.

Mark shared that it is important to have options and outlets for these kids to play sports. All board members agreed. The question of allowing games is directed more towards the out of state tournaments, not our local kids. Mark stated that Jonestown Borough also charges for tournaments. He does not know how much off hand but can check and bring the information back to the board. Mark also agreed that the out of state players leave their fields an absolute mess. They do not respect the field. It creates additional work for him as well out in Jonestown. He did convey that not every weekend is like this. Sometimes you can't tell games were played but other times it is simply a mess.

Ryan asked if contracts were sent out to the FST organization listing these fees or does the Ebenezer Baseball Association just verbalize the fees? How do we become aware that they are using our fields? Dwayne stated he receives a schedule from FST as to what weekends they would like to play. He gets paid per weekend as the schedule can vary depending on rain. Ryan asked if increasing the fee now would affect the teams coming to play? Dwayne was unsure how it would affect them. He did state that we are priced on the higher end already, matching what Fredericksburg and Coleman's charge and they are "premier fields".

Dwayne repeated that the concession stand issue should be taken care of. If there is no fall Little League program, the concession stand will be shut down as of July once the regular season ends. If there is a fall season through Little League, the concession stand will remain open. Lori asked if that means it will also be open for the FST too? Dwayne said yes. He will keep the concession stand open but will not buy the Ebenezer Baseball Association out for the inventory. This way, everything will remain as Ebenezer Baseball and all money raised will be turned over to the association.

Dwayne asked what the Parks & Rec Board members would like to do regarding hosting the FST? Ryan said if it truly benefits the association and we can raise rates to compensate

for the maintenance, we should continue to do it. Dwayne said he is unsure what a raise in rates will do. He said comments were made by FST last year when they were increased. The board agreed that everything is going up due to inflation. Corey suggested the conversation of raising rates be tabled for this year and reevaluated next year. Maintenance and damage will be looked at more closely when making these decisions.

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to table the conversation of increasing the fees until next year. Motion approved unanimously.

The Parks & Rec Board also recommends that the FST still be permitted to hold games at the Long Lane fields for the remainder of this year. The concession stand will no longer be operated by the Elders solely for these FST but will be done through the Ebenezer Baseball Association during their regular season and possible through fall if there is a fall season.

Lori will prepare a memo for the Board of Supervisors regarding the Parks & Rec recommendations.

New Business

Little League Lions Lake Renovation – Dwayne is requesting permission to renovate the softball field at Lions Lake. He would like to add Diamond-Tex infield mix. He spoke with Corey, who sells these items, and his company is willing to do a promotional field there. Little League would pay for half and Corey's company would pay for half to renovate the infield. They would like to turn it into a multipurpose baseball field for multiple age groups to use. This would all be strictly infield work and they would most likely install a portable mound. Lori reminded him that no work can happen in the outfield as it is listed as a needed project in the DCNR grant application.

Lori asked if they could use the baseball fields at Community Park. Dwayne said they could, but he would rather keep it closer to the Ebenezer area as he is the one who maintains the fields. The equipment they store at Long Lane would also be closer to the Lions Lake field. The only cost of the work that Dwayne did not have was for a rototiller tractor. He could not remember if it was rented in the past by the association or the Township. Dave stated he thinks he rented it in the past. Mark commented that Jonestown has a piece of equipment that may be able to complete the work. Dwayne said he will reach out to their president to see if they could borrow it. If that option falls through, he is requesting assistance from the Township.

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to allow the Ebenezer Baseball Association/Little League to move forward with renovating the infield at the Lions Lake softball field as well as request assistance from the Township with a rototiller tractor if needed. Motion approved unanimously.

Lori will prepare a memo for the Board of Supervisors regarding the Parks & Rec recommendation.

Little League Relocating Shed – Dwayne is requesting the shed located at Community Park be relocated by the Township to the Lions Lake softball field for tractor storage. Dwayne stated that Dave told him the Township had purchased the shed, and the Union Canal Baseball Association had been using it to store field maintenance items. Lori explained that it is a Township owned shed and should another team wish to play at these fields they may need the shed. If permitted to relocate, they would need to pay for and obtain a permit to relocate the shed. Lori said since it is not a baseball owned shed, she does not know if that is a possibility. Dwayne said he will look into other options with the Baseball Association which include the possibility of them purchasing a new shed. Dwayne said they would prefer to save money and have the Township move the existing shed over to Lions Lake rather than purchase a new shed.

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to relocate the Township owned shed from the Community Park to Lions Lake (preferred option) or to allow Ebenezer Baseball Association to purchase and place a new shed at the Lions Lake softball field if approved by Lebanon County Planning. Motion approved unanimously.

Lori will prepare a memo for the Board of Supervisors regarding the Parks & Rec recommendation.

Dave commented he originally brought this idea to Dwayne's attention because no one was using the shed. He thought it would be better for someone to use it rather than it just rotting away. If there is another team interested in using the fields to practice, then he understands why it would stay.

Damage at Lions Lake – Lori received a police report from one of the officers on 4/12/22 that an unknown vehicle drove off the road down towards the softball field at Lions Lake and damaged parts of the field, stone area, grassy area, etc. A report was filed but they were unable to find out who did it.

PARK & REC ACTIVITIES

General Activities – Mowing, weed whacking, and spraying is continuing at all parks.

Lion's Lake – The kitchen floor in the rental pavilion has been painted.

Long Lane – The lockset on the storage closet has been replaced.

Community Park – The batting cage net was removed. The kitchen floor in the rental pavilion has been painted. All apple trees have been trimmed.

Lenni Lenape – The section of land where the wooded area meets the open field has been clear cut and seeded. Work is continuing for the parking lot expansion.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously.

With there being no more business brought before the Parks and Recreation Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Lum
Recording Secretary