

**Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board  
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

**August 11, 2020**

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Those present were Dennis Elliott, Greg Churach, Sherry Paup and Scott Wagner. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick. Commissioners Renee Spaide and Cathy Paretto were present in the audience.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – D. Elliott advised the minutes were not available for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION ON PICNIC TABLES AT SUSSELL PARK** – G. Churach provided information on a recommendation for replacement of the picnic tables at Sussell Park. He explained the tables are made of recycled milk jugs, they have a 50-year warranty and are made to be handicap accessible. He further explained the cost is \$1,000 each, and we would need two (2). In response to a question from R. Spaide, S. Wagner explained the tables are basically maintenance free, but you would need to clean them with a power washer at least once a year. In response to another question from R. Spaide, G. Churach explained the picnic tables could be anchored down and then moved when mowing is necessary. In response to a question from C. Paretto, G. Churach explained that it is a possibility to put either decking or concrete pad under the picnic tables. In response question from D. Elliott, G. Churach advised the lectern needs a coat of varnish.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ADA ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND PRESENTATION** - D. Elliott advised an email was sent indicating no one from the Committee would be here tonight to talk about it which is also why Mr. Lane is not present for tonight's meeting.

**REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

**Green Allies** – K. Hamilton reported they have had extensive damage on the trails due to the two storms this year. He further reported the Sprugel's Run Trail is officially completely cleared as of today from Prout Farm to Sussell Park. He advised the pipe along the drainage ditch was clogged, and the trail is now washed out. He further advised they cleaned out the pipe but cannot repair the trail. He reported there is a gigantic tree down in the meadow which is where a wedding ceremony was held, and he noted he gets requests for weddings every week. He reported the storms also destroyed the low ropes course which is going to be costly to repair. In response to a question from S. Wagner, K. Hamilton advised the ropes are fine as they put up each morning and removed each night. He advised they have had successful summer camps and programs. He advised the farmers market is continuing and will be held this Friday. In response to a question from G. Churach, K. Hamilton advised the farmers market has been extended to Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. He reported they have been able to provide 600 pounds of food from the organic farm and worked with Pottstown Hospital to provide CSA shared to people in need. He also reported there was an article from Pottstown Hospital regarding the food provided to people in need. In response to a question from D. Elliott, K. Hamilton advised the process for the

sustainable farm is taking longer than anticipated as the summer months are a busy time for all organizations involved. He further advised Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation are going to fund a stakeholder meeting later this year, and the recommendation will hopefully come from that meeting. He noted the Family Night Hike will be different this year and will be called the Halloween Hike which will be done by appointments starting at 8:00 am up until the night. The families will read a story and choose which path they want to go which they will essentially be creating their own story. He noted a student will at the next meeting to provide the report. D. Elliott expressed concern the sign at the crosswalk on Gilbertsville Road needs to be made visible and possibly contain some flashing lights. He also suggested flashing warning lights prior to the crosswalk. G. Churach advised the township would need to petition PennDOT regarding this matter. S. Wagner suggested trimming back the area prior to the crosswalk. It was suggested including this request in the report to the Board of Commissioners.

**PARRC Committee Updates** – C. Paretti provided members with a copy of her report and reviewed the following items:

- Hazardous Tree Policy – C. Paretti advised PARRC the township will be considering a hazardous tree policy.
- Coronavirus – Discussion was held as to what measures are being taken in each municipality concerning the virus and mentioned that the township should be prepared if another outbreak occurs.
- ICIA – It was agreed that we adopt the ICIA by resolution instead of ordinance.
- Active implementation of projects using PARRC assistance – Michael Lane has coordinated several easement/boundary proposals and coordinated the trail renovation project with the township/township engineer.
- PAHWF Fall Grant Round – A list of townships was provided showing what grants have been applied for which includes one for Upper Pottsgrove for the Hollenbach Park Master Plan.
- PARRC Research Project – PARRC is working with the PAHWF to compile a report for 2020; the 2019 report was previously sent to everyone.

The next PARRC meeting is August 26th and any updates from Open Space is appreciated so that C. Paretti can report to the committee on any progress that Open Space is making

**Grants** – C. Paretti advised the Letter of Intent was submitted for the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation grant for Hollenbach Park; however, we have not heard anything yet.

**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL** – D. Elliot advised there is currently \$1,200 in donations received in the account and a fundraising event is being considered for the future.

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**BOARD COMMENT** – G. Churach recommended changing the monthly meeting to the first Tuesday of each month starting in 2021 if it does not conflict with any other committee meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by G. Churach, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Reddick  
Township Manager