

# Minutes of Parks & Trails Recreation Board

September 20, 2012

**Present:** Bob Jones, Jim Quay, Chris Galbraith, Sue Staas, Esther Underhill, Marcella Kubovsek, Tom Comitta, consultant.

1. **Charlestown Park Renovations:** Bob updated the participants on the progress. Standards for building materials will be established to ensure that renovations over the next 20 years remain consistent. In answer to questions:
  - a. Bob clarified that the Township is paying for the physical renovations of the playing fields, as well as the renovations for the common areas (picnic area, playgrounds, etc.) in the section of the Park between the Promenade and F. Street. The Teams using the fields will continue to maintain them, as they have in the past. The Township maintains all the common areas.
2. **Tom Comitta** reviewed his presentation to the Supervisors, which is scheduled for October 1. At that meeting, we will ask for feedback and ask that the Supervisors formally accept the plan at their meeting on November 5.
  - a. Discussion ensued about the form of acceptance that the supervisors might employ. **Tom will consult with the County to be sure that the Parks, Trails & Rec plan is accepted by the Supervisors in a format acceptable to the County when we apply for grants to help implement the plan.**
  - b. Tom reviewed his presentation and noted that the Charlestown Park plan is more detailed than in the past. **A correction to make playing field-7 and 11-B field in the plan the same size was noted.**
  - c. In response to the original charge by the Supervisors, it was pointed out that developing Bicycle Paths/lanes on the road should be part of the plan. The issue of liability for injury of bicyclists on roads designated as “official bike paths” was raised. **Tom will consult with the Twp solicitor about the wording of the plan;** but the committee agreed that the preferred Bicycle Routes through and within the township should be part of the plan.
    - i. Without the plan, there is no way to modify the roads to accommodate bicycles as roads are improved.

- ii. Because this is a long term plan, the concept of bicycle commuting may well become routine.
    - iii. Horses can use the wide bicycle shoulders as well – added benefit.
  - d. **Tom will incorporate the bicycle routes as listed by the Trails Committee and Bob into the plan.**
3. **Budget:** The budget was discussed briefly. Date of budget meetings TBA.
  4. **Trails:** Trail walks on September 22 (Brightside, 4PM) and October 13 (Pickering Preserve, 9AM) were promoted, as was Esther Underhill' October 6 project to begin pulling up the mile-a-minute vine that is beginning to invade the Pickering Trail.
  5. **Website:** Chris Galbraith reported that she and Chris Lawrence have begun exploring the Charlestown website, noting links that work, links that do not, and various pages that need improvement. **The committee agreed that the website should be on the agendas of the next Parks and the Trails Committee meetings, and that we need to develop a common understanding of what we want the website to do for us.**
  6. The meeting was adjourned about 9:30 PM.

Sue Staas