

MINUTES
MEETING OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MAY 15, 2014

Present: Laura Assayag, Kevin Kuhn, Bob Jones, Chris Lawrence, Jen Nelson, Karen Schlichter, Lisa Tull, Esther.Underhill

Chris Lawrence convened the meeting.

Report on Charlestown Day 2014: Karen Schlichter

- Charlestown Day is partnering with the Tech School, who will be presenting sponsor. They will be designing and printing brochures, helping with parking, with the children's area, and contributing other services that coincide with their academic specialties.
- Phoenixville Area Soccer League is partnered with Charlestown Day.
- Vendor tables will be \$25 for commercial vendors, free for non-profits.
- Karen and Laura will be meeting with the Tech School and with Valley Forge Christian College President, Rev. Jennifer Gale, on May 22.
- Meeting with Valley Forge Christian College, President Dale,
- Committee has met with Chuck McQuiston from PMYC. PYMC will cooperate around parking and traffic issues on that day. Chuck will attend committee meetings as his schedule permits, and will try to appoint a regular representative.
- There will be a special Parking meeting with the Tech School, the College and PMYC to strategize parking. Tentative plan includes gaining Permission from college to use roads, parking, using Technical College space for parking. Target is to be ready to apply for road closing in August, although official application may have to wait until mid-September..
- Chester County Day will be in Charlestown, specifically at to Nancy Long's house and the Mill in Charlestown Village, and in Chester Springs. Road closures for the 5k should be ended by 10AM, so probably will not interfere at all with CC Day. If necessary, the Charlestown Committee will adjust the road closures for the 5k so as not to interfere
- Sycamore Lane: Karen has talked with Ellen Behrle, a Sycamore Lane resident, who will talk with the Sycamore Lane neighbors about using the road for the 5k.

5K: Jen Nelson

- Waiting for Supervisors and counsel to approve the language for the waivers, signed by the participants. Kevin will follow up.
- Kevin will put together a list for Linda Csete, township manager, to use to review Twp insurance as it applies to the 5k and Charlestown Day.
- Opportunities for registering for the 5K will include hard copy registration and online.
- Committee will begin Publicity to running stores and on-line racing calendars in Mid June

- Tentative parking plan: Gain permission from college to use roads and parking areas, and from Technical School to use space for parking. Target to be ready to apply for road closing is August, although official application may have to wait until mid-Sept.

Vendors: Laura Assayag:

- 24 or 25 prospective vendors are already in contact; two have already applied.
- We need to look at a different way of organizing vendors. Sue will distribute evaluations from 2013 Charlestown Day, which addressed some of the vendors' concerns.
- Should vendors bring their own tents, or should we get a big tent?
- Play School folk will help organize and implement Publicity for the day.
- Looking to involve Schools.

Trail Hikes and Work Days: Esther Underhill

- Schedule of Hikes and Workdays have been published in the township newsletter; and on the websites.
- First mile a minute vine clean up will be on Brightside and Pickering Trails on June 14.

Trails update: Sue Staas

- Volunteers continue to be the core of trail maintenance: they pull invasives, weedwack, clean up and chainsaw deadfalls.
- Eagle Scout projects have been the core of trail improvement projects - particularly on the Pickering. We have the bridge, benches, steps up the steep part of the trail to the Ctown Road exit; and a new trail being blazed to the Ice Dam.
- Bridge walkway to Pickering Dam Road has sustained major damage in the huge rainstorm we had in April. Mark Cabot will be clearing the damage; Ed Theurkauf will be evaluating the area to determine if we should be installing preventive structures to avoid further damage.
- Thompson Farm Trail is under construction!! The Thompson property has been conserved under our Open Space Program. A maximum of 13 homes may be built on this 100+ acre parcel. A public hiking and horseback riding trail is part of the conservation. Chris Galbraith and Betsy Pilgrim will be working with Jim Thompson to lay out the trail. There will be entrances on Tinker Hill and Union Hill roads.
- There will be a meeting with representatives from the Oaks development to explore blocking ATV's from harming the trail and allowing access for hikers and horseback riders as the trails committee develops a trail to connect with Valley Hill Road and the Jenkins Pocket Park.
- Trails committee will meet with the Turnpike to ascertain our access to their property bordering the Turnpike.
- Sue announced that the next Trails Meeting will be on May 28, 7:30PM at the Nature Center.
- The Horse Shoe Trail will be making a major route change once the TND and the townhouses currently being constructed along Charlestown Road beside the elementary school are constructed. The trail from Rees Road, along Union Hill Road, around the Markley House, down to Aldham Road, across to Hollow Road, then back through the

Dickson Road development, along Rte 29, up the hill to the Elementary School, and then across Charlestown Road to Pikeland Road, will essentially be replaced by a trail paralleling White Horse Road, then Charlestown Road, across Route 29, up the hill, and connecting to the current trail that goes along Pikeland Road. Sue and the Trails Committee are working to preserve the original trail as a subsidiary trail to the HSt.

- Bob Jones asked if Mrs. Bowman's property has been eased - or if a trail easement is in place in case the HST can eventually reroute the trail off of Pikeland Road. Kevin will talk with Mrs. Bowman.

Charlestown Park Plan:

- The firm: J.D. Bravo, inc., created a report outlining necessary improvements to the park. The supervisors now need to determine if they should also be the construction managers.
- Township has determined that we own one of the spaces at the park, near the maintenance building that will allow for more parking spaces.
- Ongoing routine maintenance of park is divided between CMJones and Davey Tree.
- Linda Csete will contact Davey Tree to clean up dropped trees along Township Line Rd.
- There will be more signs regulating dog behavior.

Jenkins Park is still a work in progress.

Reorganization of Parks and Recreation Board:

According to the Township Supervisors, The Parks and Rec Board advises the Board of Supervisors on matters of recreational policy and the development and maintenance of parks and trails in the Township, including the 44 acre Charlestown Park, the future Jenkins Park, the Pickering Trail, and other recreational and open space throughout the Township.

Meeting participants discussed how the Parks Board should reorganize for 2014/15.

- Bob took responsibility for many, many tasks related to Charlestown Park such as tree falls, mowing, renovating parking, making signs, etc. etc. - who should do it now?
- Need to coordinate with Jim and Linda.
- Are there other tasks related to Charlestown Park that need to be supervised?

Phoenixville Update:

Phoenixville is improving their image as a river town.

Toll Brothers will build trail to Arch Way, which will open access to the Schuylkill River.

Phoenixville is planting trees, flowers and promoting Creek clean ups,

Phoenixville has initiated bike share.

Schuylkill Valley River trail will be completed from Phoenixville to Philadelphia.

What next for the Parks and Recreation Board??

Minutes by Sue Staas, with valuable notes from Chris Lawrence