

Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation Board Minutes of December 18, 2014 - draft

The first meeting for December was held December 18, 2014 at the Great Valley Middle School, Room 154, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, in Malvern, PA.

Present: Chris Lawrence, Pat Dowd, Phoenixville Area Soccer Club, Kevin Kuhn, Karen Schlichter, and Sue Staas.

Consultants: none

Staff: Tim Hubbard, Property & Safety Coordinator and Lisa Gardner, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: 7:34 p.m.

Minutes

The November minutes were approved.

New Business

Charlestown Park Plan Update

Mr. Lawrence sent members Mr. Theurkauf's 2013 letter regarding the Establishment and Management of Naturalized Meadows. Members were asked to review the letter and be ready for discussion at the January meeting. Mr. Lawrence requested special attention be made to a pollinator partnership with the Phoenixville Green Team and the Phoenixville Streetscapes team. He will be emailing links for members to find information on honey bees, species preference, and selective application, etc.

Charlestown Park 2014 YTD Maintenance

Waste Pickup - Mr. Kuhn suggested using a trash contractor since the Township Office receives many calls about the bins being overfull. The problem with full trash receptacles is mainly occurring near the football fields. Mark Cabot is taking care of the trash cans, and also the animal waste stations, refilling the bags, or emptying the containers, but is often unavailable. The other type of waste is handled by the soccer clubs (portable restrooms). Mr. Lawrence is scheduling a meeting with Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Cabot to determine if a contractor is needed, or they will set up a firm schedule for waste pickup.

Repairs – Mr. Lawrence will talk with the Roadmaster so that some of the repairs mentioned in the November minutes (picnic bench, pavilion boards, and ballards) could be completed and funded by the end of 2014.

Other 2015 Park Items

Sue Staas gave an update for the Horseshoe Trail and possibly the Oaks Trail. The Horseshoe Trail users would need to traverse Turnpike property, including passing through a maintenance yard.

She will be attending a meeting with Turnpike representatives on December 22nd. She feels they are open to her ideas.

She also reported she had an informal meeting with Rosemary Philips and discussed signage for local trails and the Park. Mrs. Philips will research the historical topic and Sue may have something for the 2016 budget. Sue said the P&R has until summer to decide what other signs they may want. They will be compatible with local signage. Mrs. Philips was not the one to contact regarding matching the historical plaque/sign (found on the University grounds across from the Haven) as Mr. Lawrence had mentioned in November.

Mr. Lawrence suggested tiles with the imprint of tree leaves that identify their type; members liked this idea, but need to find a way to prevent them from being stolen. The idea was also well received for identifying butterflies and birds.

Sue Staas is hoping to get local young adults from scout troops to make mailboxes for trail heads to hold maps and literature. Mr. Kuhn suggested compiling a list of projects for scouts, coming to the Township, looking for project ideas.

Mr. Lawrence showed members a picture of a bike repair kiosk idea he had seen while traveling. Everyone present like this idea, it included some tools required to fix a bike, a first aid kit, etc.

Trails Update – Sue Staas

Cross country skiing was discussed for Brightside Trail. Mr. Kuhn will contact Alix Coleman to notify her, since it may be posted on websites like The Patch, Nextdoor (free private community social networks), and the Township newsletter, etc.

The recycled trail material for Brightside was researched and found to be very expensive; it cannot be plowed, has relatively the same permeability as gravel, is easily destroyed by horses, and has a limited life of 7-10 years. Gravel will be the likely choice, especially since equestrians are encouraged to use this trail. Mr. Theurkauf will present drawings at the January Board Meeting.

There are steps on the Pickering Trail that are being repaired for safety reasons, and to encourage users to avoid the private driveway nearby.

New Board Members

There are two open seats for voting members for the P & R. There is no term associated with the position. Mrs. Csete has some resumes, and members are urged to think about recommendations, perhaps a PMYC (sports club) Member.

Additional Member Comments

Mr. Hubbard stated the guardrail for Charlestown Park will be taken care of by the Roadmaster and PennDOT. He also confirmed that the Roadmaster is checking out the safety concerns (repairs) at the Park.

The individuals who are the backup for trail weed whacking may also be interested in trash removal at the Park. Mr. Hubbard will contact them.

Last month, Mr. Lawrence urged members to monitor local townships P&R minutes. This month he commented that his research found there was no uniformity in rules on Open Space or Parks, and

that most regulations are dominated by a park's small or very large size. Members could theoretically choose the ones they would like to use.

Mr. Dowd told members that the club has hired a grant specialist to see which grants may benefit the improvements at the Park, in consideration of the Phoenixville Area Soccer Club. The Township may need to sign off on any of these, but the club wants to retain say on the spending.

Mr. Kuhn told members that the fence, being taken down around the Park, is being stored for reuse when renovating some of the fields. Mr. Dowd said they will follow JD Bravo's advice, and agreed that irrigation of the fields is not necessary. Mr. Kuhn said that at some point a well will probably be established for the Park's water needs. Mr. Dowd and Mr. Lawrence said they wanted to be at the project meetings, so Mr. Kuhn will circulate the schedule for P&R members, but they are during the day. Mr. Lawrence said they will want a water inspection too.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015 7:30 p.m. at the Great Valley Middle School, Room 154, 255 North Phoenixville Pike, in Malvern, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Gardner
Recording Secretary