



Board of Parks and Recreation

South Whitehall Township
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
June 8, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gregg Spence, President, Katrina Idleman, Secretary; Mark Ackerman, Dave Keppel, Keisha Champagne,
Bill Glose

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Walck

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Kukitz, Park and Recreation Manager, Randy Cope, Director of Township Operations, Greg Adams,
Planner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jason Engelhardt, Additional Unknown Callers Via GoTo Meeting

Minutes – June 8, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 1 - CALL TO ORDER

- A. Katrina Idleman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. This was a virtual GoTo meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 2 - ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Acceptance of the May 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Accepted by Mark Ackerman and seconded by Bill Glose (Roll call vote – Passed unanimously)

AGENDA ITEM # 3 - CORRESPONDENCE

- a. DEP approval received for the Covered Bridge Park Playground project

AGENDA ITEM # 4 – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects Update reported by Mike K:
 - a. Covered Bridge Park Playground – Concrete bids received and currently being reviewed. Once a selection has been made, this will go to the Board of Commissioners next week for approval. The pavilion that was originally proposed with this project has been removed due to funding constraints. The main walkway will be colored but not stamped. Nestle Purina agreed to be a ‘Visionary’ level sponsor with a \$5,000 contribution.
 - b. Vistas Park – No update, waiting to hear back from DCED and DCNR regarding potential grant funding.

- c. Kohler Ridge – No update, this project is on hold
 - d. Jordan Creek Greenway – Responses to the design RFP have been received and are currently being reviewed.
- B. The Open Space Fund Report – Revenue from Crackersport Road DC project has been received. Current balance is \$618,763.70.
- a. Randy C. asked Greg A. about when the Posocco funding is anticipated. Greg A. anticipates the funding will come in towards the end of summer.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 - NEW BUSINESS

- A. Gregg Adams explained two land development projects:
- a. 1810 PA Rt 309 Project - A proposed Wawa will most likely have to go back to the drawing board and back to the planning commission as the proposed site is located too close to another gas station.
 - b. Ridge Farm Plan was reviewed by the planning commission regarding waiver requests. More info on this to come. Jason Engelhardt reviewed the proposed areas highlighting a bicycle path as well as a path continuing north from the eight (8) lots located on the northeast corner of Cedar Crest and Huckleberry Roads to connect to the future Jordan Creek Greenway Trail. Jason E. then discussed many other active and passive recreation areas that could be potentially used as open space, for a tot lot/playground area, etc. Gregg S. and Keisha C. both state that they are concerned that they designated open areas would not be very useful to the township. Randy C. explained that having one descent sized parcel would be of more benefit to the township rather than a handful of smaller parcels, especially from a maintenance and Public Works perspective. Jason E. also reviewed the two club houses, pool and pickleball courts which will only be available to members of the HOA. Greg A. stated that because this project was developed under the TND and the developer more than meets the open space requirements, the townships options are to either accept the land being offered or opt to have the HOA keep the land and maintain it. Fee's in lieu of would not be an option because of how this was developed. Randy C. asked if it would be possible to rearrange a few units to eliminate a cul-de-sac creating a larger parcel to dedicate to the township. This could create some usable space adjoining the current Jeras office building, which may also be an option for the township to take ownership of. Jason E. stated that it is an interesting option but that the grading may not be conducive to making these changes. Jason E. stated that he will investigate this idea and see how it lays out. There was additional discussion regarding the proposed open space on the northwest corner of the project with no concrete ideas for this space at this point. Randy C. stated that he would like to see more nature trails in the northern sections of the passive open space areas. Katrina I. questioned the feasibility of this with the proposed grading plan. Gregg A. said that some areas will not be graded and that he will send everyone the plan highlighting the areas that the developer is trying to preserve.
 - c. Gregg A. stated that another TND was in the beginning stages at route 309 and 22, the old Econo Lodge. They are looking to redevelop that. Dave K. stated that this will have a big impact on the school district. More information to come.

- B. Summer Playground Program – Mike K. explained that with the current guidelines in the yellow phase of the governor’s reopening plan, we will be offering summer camps in Covered Bridge Parks. These camps will be limited in numbers and will follow all safety guidelines that are in place. Camp will start on Monday June 15th and run for eight weeks.
- C. Directors Report – Mike K reported on monthly highlights:
 - a. We are enrolled as an official Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) site wherein, if summer college staff are eligible, we will receive some reimbursement form the state for the time that they work.
 - b. Disaster Preparedness Class will now be held virtually for all residents
 - c. Yoga in the Park will take place as we can run this program while following all CDC guidelines.
 - d. Our public works employees have been power washing all play equipment, sanding, and repainting all metal swing set posts and completing all around maintenance at all township parks throughout the pandemic.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 - COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- A. N/A

AGENDA ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

- B. At 8:39pm, Keisha C. made motion to adjourn, Gregg S. seconded the motion.