

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS and RECREATION**
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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – December 12, 2024

PRESENT IN PERSON: Rickie Yudin, Nancy Stock-Allen, Dan Dupont, Marc Blucas, Paul Kawoczka, Dudley Rice (PR Director), Annelise Dahlin (Rec. Program Coordinator), Kevin Morrissey (Board of Supervisors Liaison)

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

ABSENT: Dan Morrin Jr., Paul Klug

OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Dan Dupont called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 24-11: On a motion by Rickie Yudin, second by Nancy Stock-Allen, the minutes of the November 6, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Dan Dupont introduced new associate member, Paul Kawoczka.

FINANCE REPORT

Board members reviewed the P&R budget report and the capital expenses to date. Members informed that cost to repair the roof on the snack stand shed at Laurel Park was reimbursed by the Township's insurance.

SUBDIVISIONS/LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None.

REPORTS ON FACILITIES

The only thing not included in the facilities report is reimbursement of cost to repair the roof of the Laurel Park snack stand.

After a conversation regarding dog waste bags being discarded in Aquetong Spring Park at the November 6th meeting, Nancy Stock-Allen designed a new sign to be installed in the park that highlights the Township's 'bring in-bring out' policy and the adopted ordinance. Existing 'bring in-bring out' sign will be replaced by two of the new signs once final design is approved.

REPORTS ON PROGRAMS

Board members reviewed the program report - informed 2024 holiday tiles almost sold out!

Pickleball discussion & public comment moved up in agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Pickleball at Solebury Green

- a. Supervisors planned to finalize Master Plan for Solebury Green presented by SALT Design Studio at December 2024 meeting. Public interest shown at the meeting to include pickleball courts in the plan by residents, BOS postponed finalization until January so interests can be heard.
- b. Mr. Kelley introduced himself and expressed his fears with the presented plan.
 - i. Lots of open space and passive programmed areas in the new park, tax dollars will be spent developing the same type of areas already established in other parks in the Township that are within walking distance.
 - ii. Installing pickleball courts at the new park will draw visitors to the park and provide an under-served recreation resource in the area. Existing pickleball courts at Laurel Park are in disrepair but are heavily used, in need of more courts. As it is a community sport it will bring residents together and will attract all age groups to a park central to the township.
 - iii. Recognized the current plan is wonderful, but feels there is need for a greater community attraction. Mr. Kelley offered to pay for the cost of installing four courts and their ongoing maintenance.
- c. Dudley clarified remedial work that has been done to existing courts at Laurel Park.
 - i. Nets and posts have been replaced, sound barriers have been installed, and waiting for resurfacing in the Spring.
 - ii. Cost to resurface set aside in 2025 PR budget. Noted courts' disrepair not due to cleats but original construction.
- d. Kay Rice (member of 202 Committee) was active in creation of Master Plan and avid pickleball player. Agrees courts at Laurel Park are in disrepair but notes positive changes and the impact of sound barriers. Expressed fears that courts will take away from other programmed areas of the park and available parking. Other parks, like Solebury Park, are better suited for pickleball courts.
 - i. Scott clarified he is interested in the installation of at least four courts.
- e. Nancy M. introduced herself as a landscape architect, feels pickle ball would undue work put into the Master Plan and noise created would be a problem in a passive park.
- f. Joanne R. introduced herself, suggests the Township should gather data on how many people would utilize pickle ball courts.
 - i. Notes that the process of SALT to create Master Plan was a long, intentional process, but agrees we should consider putting courts somewhere else.
 - ii. Scott noted if sound is a major problem he would be willing to pay or help pay to mitigate sound.
- g. Robin S. (member of 202 Committee) agrees process comprehensive and highlighted differences between Aquetong Spring Park and Solebury Green, does support courts at another location.

- i. Asked to clarify plan for the development of pickle ball courts behind Solebury Green, Kevin Morrissey clarified the plans have been delayed for private pickle ball club.
 - h. Rickie Yudin open to conversation of courts, feels PR Board should get more feedback from residents, especially those on Shire Drive, and find other areas that courts would be better suited – asked about Solebury Park.
 - i. Dudley gave an overview of the history of the Razor property, now Solebury Park, and master development plan created for recreation facilities.
 - i. Nancy S.A. clarified Solebury Green plan different than all other existing parks, expressed fears regarding increased traffic on 202 due to pickle ball courts.
 - j. Scott K. gave final comments.
 - k. Kevin Morrissey supports the PR Board in developing a list of alternative locations for pickle ball courts and invited Scott to join the Open Space and Park Plan update.
 - l. Phill Getty, a resident and EAC member, highlighted challenge and historical overdevelopment of 202 corridor during the 1970s , recommends overcompensation for lack of stormwater management controls in Solebury Green through education, creative ways.
- B. DVIT Report on Aquetong Spring Park
 - a. Dam to remain closed, extreme liability until the Township can put up a fence and repair walkway, must be made compliant with no-trip hazards and railing requirements.
 - b. Dudley asked PR Board what type of railing that would like for crossing, option between pre-manufactured or custom.
 - i. Advised Chris Garges, the Township Manager, to keep the dam closed to public access and the PR Board to make a recommendation.
 - ii. Dan Dupont made a recommendation for the Board to get more information regarding cost and viable options.

EVENTS

- A. Snow Folk Art Contest – Monday 12/16 last day to submit snowman, 12/18 judging entries.
- B. Winter Festival – January 31st to Feb. 2nd

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. *Comprehensive Plan Committee*: review of survey at last meeting, summary of results available on Solebury Township website.
- B. *Trail Task Force*: Paul Klug not present to give update on task force.
- C. *Comprehensive Park, Recreation, Open Space, Trail & Greenway Plan*:
 - a. January initial kickoff with committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. ASP Walk-Through
 - a. Nancy S.A. wrote walk-through report, has not identified the three locations for new benches.

- b. Considering adding a historical interpretive sign with a QR code link to as self-guided birdwatching tour with education of local native bird populations in addition to benches.
 - c. Various spots identified for tree planting - 60 trees donated to Township, majority of which will be planted at ASP but not necessarily in the identified locations.
- B. Cornell eBird App
- a. Dan Dupont contacted support team and had name of park changed from "Ingham Springs" to "Aquetong Spring Park."

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Annelise Dahlin

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Recreation Program Coordinator