

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS and RECREATION**

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 22, 2020

PRESENT: Dan Dupont, Dan Morrin Jr., Nancy Stock-Allen, Jim Trammell, Barbara Zietchick, Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice and Supervisor Liaison John Francis

ABSENT: Kevin Campbell, Michael McKenna, Kim Wilson

I OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Dan Dupont called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

II ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

None

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

P&R MOTION 20-07: *On a motion by Barbara Zietchick, second by Dan Dupont, the minutes of the September 24, 2020 regular meeting were unanimously approved.*

IV FINANCE REPORT

Board members reviewed the October P&R finance report. Barbara Zietchick asked about expenses for maintenance and why those services (i.e. mowing) were contracted out instead of using Township employees. The Director noted that these services have been contracted to outside bidders for over 20 years and that Public Works does not have this type of mowing equipment. John Francis pointed out the economic benefit of this approach.

V SUBDIVISIONS / LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None.

VI REPORTS ON FACILITIES

Board members reviewed the facilities report. Members discussed the recent trail grant which covers the section from the New Hope Firehouse to the Route 202/Kitchen's Lane intersection. The need for safe crossing access over the highway (Route 202) was raised.

VII REPORTS ON PROGRAMS

Board members reviewed the program report.

Basketball is still on "hold" due to COVID-19 and the lack of gym facilities. Both the New Hope-Solebury school district and Solebury Private school continue to take the position that they will not open or allow community use of its gyms and facilities this fall/winter. The situation will be re-assessed for any changes that occur in the future.

VIII PUBLIC EVENTS

Board members reviewed the upcoming events schedule. The Halloween Night community event will proceed from 6-7 p.m., based on guidance issued by the Bucks County Department of Health and following social distancing. The Police Department is also participating that evening throughout the various neighborhoods. Light-up items are handed out to make children more visible during the evening as they walk through the neighborhoods.

IX COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing new was reportable from the Director. John Francis reported on the Sustainability Committee and its goals, and will forward a copy of the report and policy to P&R. The Director noted that he had prepared a sustainability plan for mowing and maintenance which is already posted on the Township website.

X OLD BUSINESS

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Nancy Stock-Allen gave an update on trails and mapping and the ongoing progress. Dan Dupont and other members requested additional information on the pending grants and asked the Director to follow-up with the Township Manager. Specific questions included:

1. Since the \$400,000 covers about 1/3 of the cost, what are the requested amounts for the remaining two grants?
2. Is there a "match" component for these grants, or is Solebury using the other grants as the "match"?
3. What agency(s) are the remaining two grants from, and what is the timeline for a decision (when will we know if we get them)?
4. If Solebury does not get any other grants, how will the rest of the project be funded?

AQUETONG SPRING

Nancy Stock-Allen is in the process of gathering information on the Aquetong Spring property and putting it into one, consolidated document.

Dan Dupont opened up the discussion on the formation of a sub-committee that would plan the future of the park. Members discussed the nature of the committee that might oversee the next phase of planning and how it might possibly operate and function.

P&R MOTION 20-08: *On a motion by Dan Dupont, second by Dan Morrin Jr., the Board of Parks and Recreation, by unanimous vote, recommends to the Board of Supervisors, that Parks and Recreation form a subcommittee to advise the township on the development of Aquetong Spring Park, drawing on members from Parks and Recreation, the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee, and other relevant committees and organizations to ensure a broad swath of community participation in the planning of the township's newest park.*

XI NEW BUSINESS

Members discussed pickleball play, court time and etiquette. Resident John Capriotti, an active and experienced player, gave his thoughts and comments on the subject, and the consensus was that Capriotti and Supervisor Robert McEwan would get together and work on this matter. The Director will confirm this in an email to both.

A concern about safety at Laurel Park was raised by member Dan Morrin, Jr. about children who are on skateboards, scooters, or riding bikes on the nice new paving among the traffic, especially as the season gets busy. A suggestion was made to have the baseball safety officer have something put in their safety manual before the start of the upcoming season.

XII PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XII ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dan Dupont.

Respectfully submitted,

Dudley Rice

Dudley Rice, CPRP, CPSI
Director of Parks & Recreation