

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS and RECREATION**

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 17, 2020

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

ABSENT: Kevin Campbell

I OPENING OF MEETING

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

II ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

The Director announced that the P&R Holiday Tiles have been sold out for 2020.

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

P&R MOTION 20-09: *On a motion by Dan Morrin Jr., second by Nancy Stock-Allen, the minutes of the November 19, 2020 regular meeting were unanimously approved.*

IV FINANCE REPORT

Board members reviewed the December P&R finance report.

V SUBDIVISIONS / LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

VI REPORTS ON FACILITIES

Board members reviewed the facilities report. The Director reported that currently New Hope-Solebury school district facilities are closed to the public and community use (including outside tennis courts, basketball courts, and athletic fields), but that all Township parks and outside facilities remain open and available for community use.

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 will not open or allow community use of the gyms and facilities this fall/winter. PA has also shut down all youth sports K-12. Michael McKenna noted that the basketball team he helps to coach did play in an away tournament, but only got in one game before the “shutdown.”

VIII PUBLIC EVENTS

Board members reviewed the events schedule. The Director reminded everyone that the Annual Winter Festival events normally scheduled for January have all been cancelled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Both the outdoor summer camp and fall baseball did take place before the “shutdown,” with no COVID-19 cases reported by the Bucks County Health Department.

IX COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

X OLD BUSINESS

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Nancy Stock-Allen will advise in the future if there is some update needed.

AQUETONG SPRING

Members discussed the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee and Supervisor John Francis said that legally it can't be a sub-committee of Parks & Recreation, and that the current committee will be re-constituted in January with members added as recommended by the ASAC. An article will be placed in the local newspaper and on the Township website.

PICKLEBALL RULES & ETIQUETTE

Members reviewed the consolidated comments list, including the Township Administration recommendation for opening, and discussed the various items related to pickleball play, schedule management, posted rules and etiquette, walkway, benches, wind barrier, funding, and the setting of an "opening day and announcement." Resident / non-resident matters and management of use of the courts was also discussed. The Director noted that as a Township facility, requests from clubs and groups to use and reserve the courts would follow the same process that is already in place via the Township facility use request form.

SOLEBURY PARK (ROESER) / PARK SITE VISITS

Dan Dupont proposed scheduling a visit to walk the property so members can see what is actually out there along with reviewing the current plan for the site. Kim Wilson asked about accessibility at North Pointe park. Nancy Stock-Allen suggested that the site visits occur on dates when there is no hunting happening on those park properties where hunting is currently permitted.

XI NEW BUSINESS

MEMBER VACANCIES

Dan Dupont pointed out that the P&R Board has one unfilled vacancy, that he has someone in mind, but if members knew of anyone interested to please ask them to send a letter of interest to the Township.

The Director noted that the terms of Nancy Stock-Allen and Kim Wilson both expire on December 31, 2020 and suggested that the P&R Board make some recommendation with respect to reappointment. Both have requested to be reappointed.

P&R MOTION 20-10: *On a motion by Dan Dupont, second by Jim Trammell, the Board of Parks and Recreation unanimously recommends that Nancy Stock-Allen and Kim Wilson each be reappointed to a 5-year term on the P&R Board.*

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL DUGOUTS

Dan Dupont reviewed the presentation that occurred at the last Supervisors meeting. The Director updated members by reporting that the contractors for all phases of the dugout construction have been contacted and all contracts have been approved. Dan Morrin Jr. brought up the question of having an electronic scoreboard on the girls softball field and having similar amenities. Supervisor John Francis reviewed the typical Township budgeting process and timeline that happens each year along with the process for modifying the budget.

Dan Dupont suggested that it would be great for Baseball to attend a P&R meeting in order to meet the members and talk about what they would like with respect to the fields and amenities like a scoreboard.

Examples of past fund-raising efforts between Baseball and the Township were discussed, along with methods of funding within the existing budget. Use of the fields and level of activity were also discussed at length.

P&R MOTION 20-11: *On a motion by Dan Dupont, second by Dan Morrin Jr., the Board of Parks and Recreation unanimously recommends that Solebury Township support the construction and funding of the dugouts for the Laurel Park girls softball field.*

Dan Dupont again suggested that Baseball come to a future P&R meeting, perhaps even in January, to meet the members and speak about their organization, level of activity and goals in order to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and educate P&R members. Dan Morrin Jr. will relay the invitation to the Baseball League.

John Francis mentioned that the Board of Supervisors was putting together a list of priorities for 2021 and asked to have P&R submit a list for consideration. Dan Dupont asked everyone to send their suggestions to the Director, so that a consolidated list could be compiled and reviewed by all before sending it to the Township.

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