

Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee

March 29, 2021 – 7:00 PM

ZOOM Videoconference

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Nancy Stock-Allen called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
 - b. The following persons were in attendance: Barry Fetterolf, John Francis, Darcy Fair, Nancy Stock-Allen, and Michael Zolkewitz. Guests included Barbara Zietchick of the Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Committee, Patty Bacon of Deer Park, and Barbara BlueJay Michalski of the Lenape Tribe.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **MOTION: Michael Z. made a motion to approve the February 22, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Nancy S.**
- III. Old Business
 - a. Subcommittee tasks were redefined. Nancy S. shared that individuals are free to join whichever subcommittee they are most interested in
 - i. Trout and Stream Design – Barry F.
 - ii. Cold Water Habitat & Land Management – Michael Z.
 - iii. Community Outreach – Darcy F., Barbara Z., Patty B.
 - iv. Trails – Nancy S.
 - v. Interpretive Signage – Nancy S., Patty B., Darcy F.
 - vi. Bond House Potential – Nancy S., Patty B., Darcy F.
 - vii. Education – Barbara Z., Patty B., Darcy F.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Aquetong Spring Park Classification
 - i. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has park categories that municipalities can use to organize and define their parks
 - ii. Example: Parks designated as ‘Historical / Natural’ would not install sports fields
 - iii. NEXT STEP: Nancy S. asked the committee to reflect on this topic to be discussed at a future meeting
 - b. Park Name Change

- i. Nancy S. shared that many parks in our area that are comparable to Aquetong Spring Park have names including words like 'Nature / Heritage Preserve'
- ii. Several signs already exist in the park using the name 'Aquetong Spring Park'
- iii. John F. mentioned that a tagline could be added below the signs with a secondary name
- iv. NEXT STEP: Nancy S. asked the committee to reflect on this topic to be discussed at a future meeting

V. Committee Member Reports

a. Lenape of Pennsylvania (Guest Patty B.)

- i. There are plants and trees in the park that are important to Lenape ceremonies
- ii. A cedar tree will be replaced at the request of the Lenape Tribe. The Lenape will participate in the planting and blessing of the new cedar
- iii. NEXT STEP: Patty B. and Barbara M. will create a statement on the relationship between Aquetong Spring Park and the Lenape tribe to be used in the future

b. Trout, Stream Bed Design (Barry F.)

- i. Barry F. shared that the work on the stream has been successful. When there was a dam, the water temperature in the park reached as high as 80° F. The water in the park now rarely exceeds 55° F and has had positive impacts on the water temperature in New Hope
- ii. Most of the grant work was done on handling erosion in the lower two thirds of the lake bed, but there are many stream enhancements that can still be done below the dam that would not damage the water quality
- iii. Stream enhancements would create pleasant viewing areas of fish in the stream
- iv. Next Step: Barry F will identify a professional to offer stream enhancement suggestions to the committee

c. Land Management and Cold-Water Habitat (Michael Z.)

- i. Michael Z. shared that based on the most recent report from Princeton Hydro, the health of the stream is very positive
- ii. The presence of foam on the stream bed is indicative of its good health
- iii. Barbara Z. questioned if run-off from Rt 202 is still harming the stream. Michael Z. shared that the Township has created buffers as part of the restoration work that have resolved this problem

- iv. Michael Z. discussed the extensive protections that already exist for the park due to the endangered species and cultural significance
 - v. NEXT STEP: Committee members will ask more questions concerning land management during their walk with the Township Manager in April
 - d. Community Outreach (Darcy F.)
 - i. Darcy F. suggested an introductory meeting with local organizations to discuss its position as a passive recreation park and what the Township has done to protect the stream
 - ii. NEXT STEP: The Township will schedule a 'walk in the park' in the fall after the work on the parking lot / trail is complete
 - e. Trails and Interpretive Signage (Nancy S.)
 - i. Nancy S. shared a map of the upcoming parking lot and ADA trail work
 - ii. The committee reviewed the potential for loop trails to exist in the park
 - iii. NEXT STEPS: The committee will determine what topics and locations for future signage installations
- VI. Supervisor Liaison Report (John F.)
 - a. John F. shared how rain gardens help with stormwater runoff and showed where it will be used in the current construction work
 - b. Construction work is on schedule to begin in April / May
 - c. The Township is doing work such as invasive species management 'in-house' when possible
 - d. Princeton Hydro's water quality report demonstrated that the stream is doing great
 - e. Over eighty more trees will soon be planted
 - f. NEXT STEP: Members with suggestions on what to do with the flea market property should send them directly to Nancy S.
- VII. Future Meetings / Site Visit
 - a. The April 26th ZOOM meeting will be rescheduled as a 'Walking Meeting' with the Township manager on Monday, April 19 in conjunction with the Cedar Tree planting
 - b. The next special ZOOM meeting will be scheduled for Monday, May 24th at 7:00 PM
- VIII. Adjournment
 - a. Barry F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. The motion was seconded by Michael Z.