

Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee

May 24, 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, Dan Dupont and Michael Zolkewitz. Guests included Barbara Zietchick of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Patty Bacon of Deer Park, and Barbara BlueJay Michalski of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **MOTION: Dan D. made a motion to approve the March 29, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Barry F.**
 - b. Minutes taken by Nancy S. from the April 19th walk at Aquetong Spring Park have been added to the end of this document to be approved at the next committee meeting
- III. Old Business
 - a. Park Name Change
 - i. Nancy S. suggested a tag line of ‘A Nature & Heritage Preserve’
 - ii. **MOTION: Dan D. made a motion that we adopt a subheading for the park sign. The motion was seconded by Barry F.**
- IV. New Business
 - a. Fall Opening Event
 - i. The committee will brainstorm activities for October’s event. The committee will share those ideas with Dudley Rice, Parks and Recreation Director
 - b. Park Additions
 - i. Two bridges have been added to the trails, and 100 trees (Maple, Sycamore, Dogwood and Cherry) will soon be added below the dam
 - c. Bond House Name Change Proposal
 - i. Nancy S. shared the story of the Bond family who purchased the property in 1936 and performed extensive preservation work before selling it in 1992

ii. MOTION: Barry F. made a motion that we change the name to the Bond House. The motion was seconded by Darcy F.

V. Individual Updates & Reports

a. Trout, Stream Bed Design

- i. Barry F. suggested that additional stream work below the dam could create a great educational opportunity for fly fishing
- ii. Nancy S. asked if the teaching could occur on the lawn next to the Bond House. Barry F. explained that the lawn would be used to teach casting before students are brought into the stream
- iii. Bluejay M. asked if fishing is currently allowed on the property. Barry confirmed it is not and that this proposal is exclusively for educational fishing in the lower part of the stream in the future
- iv. John F. asked if introducing new fish would harm the trout already in the stream. Barry F. shared that these fish species would coexist
- v. Michael Z. voiced concern that this stream may not be the most appropriate venue for Barry's suggestion due to the committee's focus on stream restoration work up to this point. Patty B. agreed and commented that the stream work has been done to improve the habitat, not to adjust the habitat to benefit one particular creature such as fish
- vi. John F. suggested we find an unbiased professional to solicit advice on whether activities such as fishing are appropriate for this stream. Michael Z. shared that he felt it is not the committee's place to solicit a professional, but rather to make a recommendation to the Township on what they think is appropriate
- vii. Barry F. expressed his desire to see more fish in the stream. Bluejay M. feels that there's a reason fish don't exist in this section, and in an effort to keep the stream pure and sacred she would be against adding fish to the stream

b. Land Management & Cold-Water Habitat

- i. Michael Z. shared that new wetlands are forming and there may be cold water springs buried beneath the lake bed. Princeton Hydro (PH) will soon perform either a wetland delineation or vegetation mapping
- ii. Michael Z. shared that there has been a high mortality rate of the trees. The PH mapping should help with future planting plans

- iii. Michael Z. will reach out to the PA Natural Heritage Program to review the park for rare species appearing in the park; Invasive species management is ongoing
 - iv. Nancy S. asked if there's a concern with the existing trails going through the wetlands. Michael shared that he doesn't believe the trails are going directly through the wetlands but there are solutions that can be implemented to accommodate the trail sections that are too wet
- c. Community Outreach
- i. Darcy F. is planning short meetings with representatives of related organizations to know what the committee has done and to see if they'd like to be involved in our October event
- d. Trails and Interpretive Signage
- i. Nancy S. shared four types of signs that could be introduced to the park: (1) Welcome / Info sign, (2) Site Interpretive Signs, (3) Trails Signs, and (4) Flora / Fauna Signs
 - ii. Barbara Z. asked if signage could be geared for children. This topic will be discussed in more detail once a sign strategy has been determined
 - iii. The committee reviewed a current trail map and discussed possible trail names and sign placements
- e. Construction Progress Report
- i. John F. shared that the site cleaning is complete. One hundred new trees will soon be planted to replace the removed trees. Construction is on track to be completed by October
 - ii. The memorial bench fundraiser may provide benches for this park
- VI. Future Meetings / Site Visit
- a. **MOTION: Barry F. made a motion that we schedule a meeting for June 28 at 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Dan D.**
- VII. Adjournment
- a. **MOTION: Nancy S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. The motion was seconded by Barry F.**