

July 20, 2022

Parks and Recreation Committee

Members present:

Laura Miller

John Bickhart

Tina Skinner

Heide Harper (garden liaison)

Staff present:

Robert Weer, Assistant Township Manager

1. Call to order 7 pm

2. Approval of agenda as presented

3. Recognition of Guest Steve Zurl, Supervisor. He came in response to complaints about invasive thistle on Blosser Property

4. Approval of minutes

5. Park Report

No news on park or dog park

Veggie Garden: Heide said Casey helped repair broken garden bed. Dirt has still not been transferred into the new raised bed.

No complaints of problems otherwise. John said he'd ask his neighbor Allan Doff if he would take on that job because he has been asking to volunteer. Robert brought up a garden plot request that came via email. Heide said three ground plots are available.

No financial update.

6. Old business

No watershed update.

Blosser property construction due to begin in august.

No updates on Goddard Memorial Garden. Barry Glicklich bench donation is on order, due in roughly 8 weeks.

Martha _____, township landscape architect, is working with Ken and Shane and Robert to get garden design ready for bids. Laura said that this has taken three months, and we have the finances in our budget for this fiscal year. John said he will call Ken to ask about the progress. Laura said she will send John the drawing and proposal. Steve Zurl said it would have to be moved to next year's budget.

Invasive Removal: Laura spoke with Casey about creating a plan to address different areas of the park to take on invasives, and scheduling follow-up. Laura said vines are a priority because they are strangling the trees. The meadows also have invasives like ragosa rose, thistle, and vines. Committee agreed that Shane should be trusted to take on best practice for thistle management and milkweed preservation and asked that he provide simple explanation that can be shared with concerned citizens.

Walk in the Park: Audrey not present for update.

List of projects for scouts. John has been considering scope of projects, hours and supplies necessary.

Trail projects: John said Husband's Run Trail has been the focus. He walked the area with Robert and Shane and Casey and discussed ways that the wetland area might be navigated. Ken put together a proposal to study where the trail is now in designated wetland area. Robert approached Natural Lands Trust and they offered William Penn Foundation grant money to study the area. The BOS approved the grant for the study last week. John asked to be involved and wants to read the proposal.

John has been walking the area and of the Husband's Run detour considering alternate trail routes.

John asked about mower going through the woods, cutting tree roots, and going across the bridge. Expressed concern that the bridges are not made for that. Also, he removed the stairs at the top of Husband's Run trail and was able to rake it smooth.

Robert: Board voted not to do the Fall Community Day, for reasons including that no donations have come in. Next year will be 300th anniversary of the township, and the Board asked that Parks and Rec take the lead on this, and that Dawn not be taxed with the work. And no public money. Originally \$5,000 was allocated. The Board said it must be donated money. So that will be on agenda next month. John said that, while he is working, he enjoys nice feedback from people using the trails.

7. New Business

Community Day 2023. Township will not put any money into it. We are responsible for creating an event. Steve Zurl said Penn Township raises \$35,000 for their annual event, and no taxpayer dollars go into it. In 1994 there was a two-day Centennial Event, and borough workers involved on their own free time. It built a lot of community camaraderie. At last community event, 10-year park anniversary, it was primarily staff effort. Laura said, "I work full time" and I don't think we can really do anything without the support of the township. Robert said the board wants more participation from volunteers.

Tina said we need to work on our volunteer base. John said he'd like to restart regular volunteer days in the parks. That for a year they generated real interest. Third Saturday event every month. Discussion about how to generate volunteers. Robert said that in the past all the committees came before the BOS to talk about what they are doing. Committee agreed that sounded like a good idea.

Robert and Dawn will suggest major community sponsor list to Tina for a report in August.

Budget for 2023 by Laura, brought last year's request. Robert explained the budget process – that budgeted items can't be undertaken until approved/authorized by Ken and BOS.

Article needed for next newsletter – need for volunteers, two new park benches, and new Goddard Park land.

Next meeting August 17th

8. Adjournment: 8:40 pm