

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020, via Zoom in attendance were:

**Committee:**

Norris Muth- Chairperson  
Tessa Antolick- Vice Chair-Absent  
Dr. Shawna Doerksen-Secretary  
Connie Puckett  
Robert Demayo-Absent  
Bill Keough  
Jerry Learn  
Rick Tetzlaff

**Staff:**

David Pribulka, Township Manager  
Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager  
Lance King, Township Arborist

Others in attendance: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Resident & Board of Supervisors member.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, September 17, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:04 pm. Mr. David Pribulka went over the procedures for a ZOOM meeting.

**III. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Muth called for a motion to approve the August 20, 2020 minutes Dr. Shawna Doerksen made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Rick Tetzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**V. PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY ORCHARDS**

Mr. Lance King stated that he was asked to attend today's meeting to discuss community orchards. Mr. King stated that the Township was approached by a resident that requested a community orchard. Mr. King stated that he has done some research and sent some information from the Philadelphia orchard program to the Committee members prior to this meeting. Mr. King stated that he is not an expert in orchards however; he does know that orchards labor intensive. Mr. King's main suggestion is that the Township would need to have an engaged and energetic group to take care of the orchard. Mr. King went over the information he sent to the Committee members from the Philadelphia orchard program. Mr. Jerry Learn asked if there was one person or more people that were interested in doing the community orchard. Mr. Learn agreed that they are a lot of work as he has personal experience. Mr. Learn stated some administrative concerns he would have with a community orchard.

Ms. Centrice Martin stated that the inquiry she received was from an individual that has an affiliation with Penn State, but it was unclear if this was one person or more. The individual was interested in planting peach, pear, and apricot trees. Ms. Martin stated that the Township has allocated a small amount of funds for a community orchard in the CIP. Mr. Rick Tetzlaff stated that a resident contacted him as well. Mr. Tetzlaff stated his concern that this could be a direct competition with grocery stores, Harner Farm, and Ways Fruit Farm. Mr. Tetzlaff stated that the Committee needs to also take in account the possibility of the fruit attracting nuisance animals. Ms. Laura Dininni stated that the most

recent survey done by the Centre Region Council of Governments Office stated interest in community orchards but acknowledged the lack of programming for nature based programs. Ms. Dininni stated that she feels there is an interest in it but she also acknowledges the pitfalls. The Committee continued to discuss the topic. Dr. Muth suggested some small steps would be to determine what kind of trees would be planted if the opportunity arises. Mr. Jerry Learn suggested talking with the people that are interested and asking what they want.

**VI. 2021 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Martin stated that staff is beginning to review the budget and will be making a recommendation to the manager then those recommendations will be reported to the BOS for adoption into the operating budget for 2021. Ms. Martin stated she will be working with the manager in the upcoming weeks and this will be presented to the Committee before it goes to the board.

**VII. REVIEW OF TOWNSHIP PARK ORDINANCE**

Mr. Pribulka stated that staff just wanted to get this ordinance in front of the Committee. The BOS has not seen this ordinance yet, this will be present to the BOS in October. Mr. Pribulka stated that this is a regional effort but was halted due to COVID-19. The goal is to have a standardized ordinance governing parks and recreation.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REQUEST- ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND**

**IX. REPORTS**

**1. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Martin stated that there are four items she would like to touch on. There has been an update on drafted green infrastructure policy, staff met with the Centre Region. Ms. Martin stated that she is currently working on compiling notes to present to the Committee. Centre Region Fall Bike program will be on the next BOS agenda for adoption. Ms. Martin stated that she met with Mrs. Tess Antolick Committee vice chair and Mr. Learn discuss the land development subcommittee. Ms. Martin also noted that an injury occurred at Homestead Park, staff performed an inspection on the two play structures and the equipment is now unavailable to the public at this time. A repair kit has been purchased.

**2. CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY REPORT – MR. BILL KEOUGH**

Mr. Bill Keough stated that the Park Authority is still looking for a CNET representative and explained what the position would require. Mr. Keough updated the Committee on the Millbrook Marsh boardwalk issue, the Authority awarded a feasibility study on what needs done and how to a company. Whitehall road Regional Park the Authority approved the initial bid documents for the Whitehall Road Regional Park and they will be distributed in the near future.

**X. COMMUNICATION TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**XI. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Muth suggested making iNaturalist a future agenda item to update the Committee.

**XII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Muth made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, September 17, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at pm. Mr. Tetzlaff seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawna Doerksen", written over a horizontal line.

SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE