

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Minutes – Sept 5, 2012

Next Meeting: Nov. 7, 2012 7pm

In attendance: Bert Barrier, Harry Bond, Don Verducci, Aaron Allen, Dan Weiss, Brigitte Geiger, Diana Schwarick, Liz Ouimet, Ron Perry, Jim Lynch, Jill Daggon

Minutes from the May meeting were distributed by email and are posted on the township's website under meetings and agendas.

- Committee Reports:

- o MOHS Student Liaison: None (*We need a new liaison*)
- o Open Space: Jim Farley – not present. *Liz mentioned that trail work has been on-going, especially by the former BASF building and old railroad tracks.*
- o Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch –
 - o *The summer season went well, the carnival operations were smooth. We've made a few changes for 2013.*
 - o *The artificial turf field (soccer 4) is done. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sat. 9/8 at 10am. The project went smoothly.*
 - o *Football field lights – Frank Wilpert Jr did a phenomenal job while Jim was out of the office with an injury. He was able to get the contractor, DPW staff and JCP&L to coordinate together and get the job done in 9 days. The lights were on 1.5 hrs before the Pep Rally started! Work is still on-going for the football practice field – temporary lights are there, light poles are in place, fixtures are scheduled for next week. Bringing 3 phase power to the rest of the park is in the plans for 2013.*
 - o *Fields have healed from spring and summer use*
 - o *Budd Lake School (BOE Admin building) property is for sale. If the property is sold, that light baseball field will no longer be available. Jim, MOBSA and administration have been looking at options.*
 - o *TBP: Matt Callahan has been putting in millings roads – some were used for parking access during the carnival. Since then, additional work has been done to continue the road to Meirer's Pond, put in a 20 car parking area under the power lines, put in a parking area between the soccer and football practice fields and a connecting driveway to CMS's driveway. This provides another traffic outlet that avoids the use of the loop road during large events such as the carnival and Momentum 5K Run.*
 - o *Vandalism: At TBP, the Soccer men's restrooms are closed for the season (portable toilets have been brought in) due to vandalism. They also started damaging the baseball restrooms. At Flanders Park, vandals drop an M-80 in the men's toilet and destroyed it. Portable toilet added to that location. Hopefully with school starting, vandalism will decline.*
 - o *Parks, Buildings and Grounds budget has been used up – the Court HVAC system malfunctioned and flooded offices and the court. Work is underway to remove all the damaged walls, insulation, flooring, etc, remediate any mold issues, etc. So far the insurance company has denied the request to cover this expense, it is under appeal.*
 - o *Shared services have really helped this year – especially the BOE HVAC personnel. Jim will be sending a letter to Tom Scerbo thanking him and praising the work of his staff.*
- o Board of Ed/Mutual Facilities: Liz Ouimet – *School has started. Recreation is invited to have a presence at the Back to School Nights. (Although last year we had people at the schools, parents did not take the time to visit our table) BOE building is for sale. Sandshore School lost power 9/5, the first day of school and dismissed early at 1pm.*
- o Mt. Olive Senior Club: Ron Perry - *The Mt Olive Senior Club is open to anyone age 55 or older, for \$15 per year. The club has about 225 members. Activities include day and overnight trips, parties and socials. The Senior Club Newsletter is posted monthly on their website (accessed through the Recreation section). The trip to Point Pleasant last week went well, with mostly last minute sign-ups. The Holiday Party will be on 12/5 at the Skylands in Randolph.*

New Business:

- o *Field Maintenance Contributions from Sports Associations resolution: The township auditor pointed out that the resolution on file for 2011 was not implemented as stated, nor was it amended for 2012 and the future. They also are requiring rosters be submitted as documentation for the number of registrants per season for each Sports Association making the field/facility maintenance contribution. During the summer, Jim and Jill discussed not limiting the contribution agreement to the major users of fields, and include any groups that have an outdoor season that using township facilities, since manpower is still provided for maintenance. It was recommended to expand the use of the funds to include supplies, not just fund wages for park staff. All the sports associations were contacted about the \$10 per player per season contribution. All groups were supportive. On the resolution, all the quasi-entity sports*

associations are listed, in case at some time in the future they decide to have an outdoor season. The contribution will not be expected until they do implement an outdoor season requiring township fields or facilities. Contributions will not be required retroactively during a calendar year, but will be expected when they can implement it in their upcoming registration time frame. A motion was made by Bert to approve the resolution, and seconded by Brigitte. The members present at the time of the vote were all in agreement. Liz arrived after the vote and asked to be on record that she is not in favor of this resolution. She felt it is a hardship to parents who may not be able to sign up due to monetary constraints. Also as stated in previous emails before, cheerleading does not use the facilities as football does. The resolution and explanatory memo will be reviewed by the sports associations and then after approval, sent to administration for a council workshop.

- Fall Brochures are at the printer this week, to be distributed in Friday folders 9/14. Over 100 programs ready for fall. Fall Recreation programs color ad was distributed through all 6 Black River Newspapers. Benjamin Moore is the prime sponsor for the color 12 page brochure for fall. Sponsors for the Winter brochure are being worked on. *Please let Jill know if you have any suggestions for potential sponsors. We can also provide banner ad space on the interior pages.*
- Fall Events:
 - 9/30 **Tour de Mt. Olive:** 3 simultaneous events at Flanders Park, 26 mile recreation ride, 5 mile Family Ride, Bike Safety Rodeo, followed by Ice Cream Social & hot dogs. Still need volunteers for event day – course marshals, set-up, on-site registration, etc. *A suggestion was made to have flyers available at the Back to School Nights (and perhaps posters). Brigitte offered to volunteer for this event. The course routes have been posted on facebook. A turn by turn course route will be sent to each pre-registered participant. The planning committee is meeting on Wed. 9/12 and 9/26 at 7pm. MOPD will be at the Rt. 206 crossing at Hillary and the Rt. 46 crossing at Woodsedge. Sandshore School is the halfway rest stop. This is a rain or shine event.*
 - 10/4 **Oktoberfest** – hosted by The Corner Pub, to benefit Recreation. Tickets will be on sale at the restaurant, PNC Bank Branches and Rec Dept. *Details will be uploaded to our website 9/6 and press release sent out. The full page flyer in our brochure also includes a coupon good for other visits to The Corner Pub. They are committed to being involved in the community. Posters, flyers will be at the restaurant, and postcards promoting the event will be included with each restaurant check during the 2 weeks prior to the event. This event is replacing the Taste of the Highlands, which is a labor intensive (but yummy) food event for the fall. This is a public/private partnership that we hope will inspire other businesses to work with Recreation for events, programs, advertising and sponsorships. Signs are posted around town.*
 - 11/3 **Raiders of the Lost Park Mud Run** at Turkey Brook Park. Planning meeting on Friday 9/7 to go over logistics, registration, sponsorship & obstacles. *Information will be uploaded to our website and community pass by Friday. The Corner Pub has agreed to donate beer for the after event gathering. (A mud run tradition, that also includes hot dogs and other food.) Mud Runs have been very popular this year and in the news. Aaron advised us to not underestimate the number of participants and to well advertise the maximum/cut-off number. Mud Runs resemble a 5K (although does not need to be 3.1 miles) with obstacles and mud – the messier the better! Traditionally, the participants are washed down by a fire hose at the end. EMS volunteers have their annual conference that weekend, so we will need to find out what the back-up coverage plan is for Mt. Olive.*

All events are still accepting sponsors. *Sponsorship information is included in tonight's packets.*

Old Business

- Sponsor Signs at Township Fields – ordinance was approved, but needs to be re-advertised for legal requirements
- **Special Events, Sponsors and Fundraising:**
 - May events – Fairy & Pirate Festival went well – over 2,000 people attended during the 4 hour event. We've started planning for 2013 – 5/18. Power Wheels Race series ended on 5/31. About 30 families participated. On the Grand Prix Day, a special guest – Monster Truck Extinguisher came. 5/28 Memorial Day Parade. 6/30 was the PAL Fishing Derby at the TBP irrigation pond. *Brigitte mentioned that the Parade and the Fishing Derby were enjoyed by the participants and went well.*
 - Annual Gala - Saturday, June 2 at Flanders Valley Catering. Sold about 80 tickets, all silent auction items sold and all wine pull bottles sold. Event menu was scaled back to reduce costs, desserts donated from several area restaurants. Beer taste sampling was enjoyed by all. *There is about \$1700 available to be divided between the beneficiary entities. This event is labor intensive regarding the Silent Auction and sponsorship components. We do not plan to offer this event in 2013.*
 - Mt. Olive Week Carnival July 11 -15. Event went well despite rain on Friday and Sunday. Beer Garden was not well attended. NJ FF parked 2711 vehicles, plus people parking in Pershing Estates and walking in.

Fireworks were awesome. Attendance guess – 16,000 over 5 days. Event sponsorship & ride revenue % did not cover MOPD overtime, as we had hoped. We are still waiting for some of the sponsorship funds to come in. The planning committee met to review comments and suggestions. Jim & Jill met with the carnival company while they were in Tannersville to get their suggestions. We have a list of changes for 2013. Save the dates: 7/10-14! *More parking areas are being developed. The planning committee will start meeting in December.*

- Flea Markets at TBP were held on 6/30, 7/28 and 8/25. Reasonable turnout, no effort on our part. *In October Jill will work out dates for 2013 with JC Promotions.*
- Budd Lake Beach - season ended on 8/18. Attendance report not received yet. Even though hours and staffing were reduced to cut expenses and swim lesson and season badge prices were lowered to encourage sales, the beach still finished the season \$3500 in the red. 2 Topaz level sponsorships and 1 movie night sponsorship were received. 2 movies were shown, 3 concerts on the beach and the Regatta. *We decided to discount swim lessons and offer discounts on seasonal beach tags as incentives to draw more patrons, but instead, we had the same core group, who took advantage of the discounts, but it did not draw more people. The operating loss is about equal to the discounts given. We will review plan for the 2013 season next month. We did not receive FEMA funds for sand replenishment (lost from the fall storms in 2011). Jill has asked Sean Canning's help in getting an engineering study done concerning the abatement of sand erosion. Once we have a plan to stop the loss of sand, we can apply for grants, etc.*
- **Community School** – We have rolled the 100+ former Community school classes into all our offerings, eliminating some, restructuring others, focusing on “workshops” that have a shorter time commitment and lower costs per workshop. We've also changed the timing of the classes to match our “seasons” for ease of administering. *We've set-up Community Pass (on-line registration) with a “season” called 2012-13 school year. This will list all the programs available for the entire school year so people can see all that is available and can select dates that work for them. Most of the enrichment programs for 2012-13 are already up on our website and in Community Pass. There will be more, since we are always adding new programs. Classes that do not run for 4+ seasons due to lack of participants, will be culled from our offerings.*
- **Volunteers** – We still need volunteers – for programs and events! *A suggestion was made to have volunteer sign-ups at this event.*

● **Other:**

- Committee meetings:

- Mutual Facilities & Sports Associations' Committee – *Next meeting TBA.*

- Continuing Concerns

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events, Trips –

- Community Service recommendations for Winter
- Recommendations for Agenda – *please e-mail me!*

- Special Events & Trips –

- 9/18 Yankees Game – 10 tickets left
- 9/22 MOPL Fall Fest
- 9/30 Tour de Mt Olive
- 10/4 Oktoberfest at the Corner Pub

- 10/13 Broadway Trip: Annie! and Once (8 Tony awards)
- 11/3 Raiders of the Lost Park
- 12/22 Tran Siberian Orchestra 3pm show

Enclosures:

RAC Minutes (blue) Field Maintenance Contribution Resolution draft (white) Fall Brochure (Salmon)
Tour de Mt Olive (green) Oktoberfest (light gold ink) Raiders of the Lost Park (Tan)