

## RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes: September 3, 2015

Next Meeting 7pm November 4, 2015

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

*In attendance: Amanda Fink, Frank DiPrimo, Jim Farley, Louis Valdes, Karen Shunk, Antoine Gayles, Jim Lynch, Jill Daggon*

### - Committee Reports:

- o Open Space: Jim Farley: *Mostly trail work and updates. The white trail can be mountain biked – it goes through Turkey Brook Park, down to Maier's Pond (fishing allowed) and extends into the Turkey Brook Greenway Park. The orange trail is rugged. The Greenway trails go to Goldmine Road. Work has been done on the trail that goes from Stanhope along the Morris Canal bed by the Marriott and extends to the Sussex Branch trail by Waterloo Village. By Givadaun is the Braille trail. The trails have been GPS"ed" and the Land Conservancy is making maps. Kiosks along the trails will have GPS coordinates so emergency services can find a hiker in need.*
- o Parks, Buildings & Grounds: *It's been very busy since May with events, tournaments and projects. So far this year, Parks, Buildings & Grounds have responded to 2700 work orders with 10 staff. This is double the amount from last year, with only adding 2 new staff.*
  - o *Fields are in reasonable shape, even with the lack of rain, but they are very dry right now.*
  - o *Work continues on the old Baptist Church renovation and the Seward Mansion was awarded a grant by the county for continued work on stabilization.*
  - o *We are currently going out to bid for a maintenance shed to replace the use of the 1850's barn (formerly blacksmith and carriage barn). The new building will be on the site of the former 3 storey barn that was on site.*
  - o *The yellow trail (old ice cutting rd) goes from Sandshore Road into the bog at Budd Lake, but does not extend to the water yet.*
  - o *Every trail is walked every two weeks, checked, brush cut back, etc.*
  - o *The 911 Memorial landscaping has been refreshed – there will be a ceremony there next week.*
  - o *BP&G staff still are mowing the elementary school fields, although Jim is working with Glenn Miller (new Buildings & Grounds Supervisor for the BOE) to have their staff mow the MV baseball field, since his staff can mow earlier in the day than Jim's staff, so the work doesn't impact students.*
  - o *The lake has a weed problem that will need to be addressed by the vendors who provide the weed control recommendations and applications.*
  - o *Budd lake Park (no longer referred to as beach) has the new fishing dock in place and the old dock was renovated to provide access and quick response for the Budd Lake Rescue Squad.*
  - o *Drakes Brook Park – the new lacrosse field is growing in nicely and should be ready for play spring 2016.*
  - o *Valley Brook Park's Equestrian Center has been worked on by tenant. As the landlord, the township is working on providing water for the horses – the pump is working, permission was given by DEP to the well for agricultural purposes and the Water & Sewer Dept has water samples out to the lab. Soon a meter will be installed. The tenant has removed concrete for the buildings and will remove the horse exerciser from building 4, so it can be used as an indoor arena during the winter months.*
  - o *New signage will be going up for each park – the same style as the Farmer's Market signs at TBP – Black posts with gold finials. The Recreation event signs around town will also receive the same upgrade.*
  - o *The back access roads at TBP have been blocked by trees – next year gates will be installed. Illegal dumping has been occurring.*
  - o *The lights on the TBP baseball fields only took 6 days to install.*
  - o *Jim Lynch requested that the Committee send a letter to Administration recommending that restoration work on the Seward Mansion become a priority. It is at the entrance to the park, near beautiful memorials. Restoration costs need to be put into the capital improvements budget for 2016.*
- o BOE: Antoine Gayles:  
*The Board of Ed Administrative offices have moved to their new location on Rt. 206. The new location is not going to cost the taxpayers anything, and is an upgraded facility.*

*Jim explained about our mutual services arrangement with the BOE staff – sharing personnel, expertise and equipment. There will be a Mutual Facilities and Sports Associations meeting later this month.*

### New Business:

1. Planning for 2016 – looking for ideas for November and December events. (11/19 and 12/10 or 11) *Jill reviewed the list of events for 2016. The April 30<sup>th</sup> 5K needs a fresh idea/theme/activity. Color runs have been done the last 2 years and are widely available now. We are looking for an event that is attractive both to runners and walkers and stroller moms. Karen is going to ask Larry Reynolds if the November and December events can be held at a school for no charge. Jim explained the dates for carnival has to be July 6-10 because the following weeks are Softball and baseball tournaments that are part of a 3 year contract that MOBSA signed (without our knowledge). The tournaments are good for area businesses and showcasing the park.*
2. Need leads for sponsors and vendors for all events – we are lining up sponsors now, so it is in their 2016 budget this fall. *Everyone knows someone in business – please think through your contacts and let us know. We only look for marketing benefits that are right for the business and fits with Mt. Olive Recreation.*

3. Fall Brochure is available and will be in schools next week – new Recreation Dept website that is mobile friendly. Still being worked on: <http://rec.mountlivetownship.com> is the correct url (no www. In front)
4. At November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, we should have recommendations for appointees for the 2016 – 18 terms. Jim, Noelle and Amanda's terms expire 12/31/15. *Amanda, and Karen are interested in appointments. Jill will check with Arthur.*

### Old Business

- o Ideas of amenities/facilities to add to TBP to "Finish it Out"
  - o *More shade and picnic areas*
  - o *Football area Fire Pit*
  - o *Expanded lights – (Jim is meeting with MUSCO lighting next week)*
  - o *Exercise stations along trails*
  - o *Cooling/Spray Mist stations for sports spectators*
  - o *Botanical Garden*
  - o *Wooden Kiosks at the parking lots with a map of the park and "you are here"*
  - o *LED sign at the front of the park*
  - o *Showmobile*
  - o *Memorial Walk with donated benches and trees like Horseshoe Lake*
  - o *A learn to bike course (Safety Town style), with a ropes course in the middle.*
- o Update on Budd Lake Park Fishing Dock and EMS boat dock
- o Update on Splashpad pre-construction meeting on 9/16 – *Jill explained the delays in the bid process, contract has been awarded and the current plan is to install it this fall. An ad hoc committee is working on the feasibility of a community pool.*
- o Update on Valley Brook Equestrian Center *see mention in Parks report*
- o Recreation's Monthly Reports for April-August – *Jim F. found an error in the August report – it had July's figures instead of August. Jill has updated and reprinted.*

### Events: *Most of these events were mentioned while reviewing the 2016 Events*

1. Fairy & Pirate Festival 5/16 – 30+ vendors and sponsors about 3500-4000 people attended despite the misty weather
2. Food Trucks & Fireworks 5/16 was rescheduled to Aug 29 due to thunderstorms. Close to 10,000 came to the event this past weekend! 17 food vendors, 9 other vendors. Already making plans for 2016.
3. Farmer's Market Opening Day 6/6 – moved to Turkey Brook Park
4. Raiders of the Lost Park Mud Run 6/20 – couple of new obstacles! 1050 participants! Fantastic turn out!
5. Carnival 7/8-12 – Hours slightly changed: Fri & Sat close at 12am, Sun close at 8pm. Working on layout now
6. Movies in the Park: 7/24 MegaMind, 7/31 How to Train Your Dragon, 8/7 Monsters vs Aliens (need advertisers to show before movie starts) Each movie had 700 -800 attendees. Laura learned how to edit video to make a dvd for showing before the movies started
7. Wet & Wild 8/2 – adding more activities and sponsors \$5 donation requested – another amazing day! 3500-4000 people came. Not many donated to support Rec. Karen was a big help running the wet sponge sling shot activity.
8. Touch a Truck 8/29 Held at the activity field at TBP. More than 2,000 attendees – 600 of whom visited the Farmer's Market too.
9. Starry Skies 9/27 – Wine & Beer Festival – Eastern Asian Bistro is providing the wine & beer concession, ABC permit has arrived. 2 complimentary drink tickets and 1 appetizers ticket (1<sup>st</sup> hour of the event). Quote for tents is \$4,000. Band lined up. Weis is presenting sponsor. Weis and Sam's club donating some of the appetizers. We need more trays donated (20 total) We could use 2 volunteers.
10. Farmer's Market end of Season party 10/17 9am-1pm
11. Monster Mash 3K 10/24 6-8:30pm, registration opens at 5pm. We need sponsors for candy stations for the children to trick or treat. We need 2 volunteers
12. Blanket & Coat Drive 11/1-18 We will need volunteers to sort and bag donations.
13. CandyLand 12/13 We need volunteers for the candy/giveaway stations

### Trips

Yankees trips 5/22 and 9/9 – still have a lot of tickets left for the Sept game next week.  
 Trans Siberian Orchestra 12/12 \$125 (\$15 discount per ticket if registered by 11/19)

### • Other:

- o *Sean Canning, our Business Administrator is leaving, and the new BA will be Laura Harris from East Windsor where she has been the Assistant Town Manager. Sean will continue to provide Purchasing Agent services for us.*
- o *Security cameras – the ones by the playground and splashpad area are operational (and were used to focus on the beer garden during the Food Truck Festival). Additional posts and cameras are on Jim's "to do" list.*
- o *Possible trips – Radio City? Jill explained that had offered this trip in the past, but dwindling participation resulted in canceling this trip. Jefferson Township runs this trip and has offered to provide an extra bus at Rockaway Mall for Mt. Olive. Last year, less than 10 people took advantage. Now that theaters, Yankees and other entertainment venues are offering ½ price discounts through Groupon and other sources, individuals can purchase tickets cheaper than through group sales. We need 35 people*

*willing to pay \$35 each for coach bus transportation, plus the cost of the ticket, to be able to break even on a trip. However, Recreation can set up a trip very little notice, as long as we have the costs covered for a group of 35 or more people.*

- *Videography – Antoine reminded us that the high school students are talented and also have access to drones. We can reach out to Peter Hughes. Drones could be very helpful in mapping areas of the parks, fields, trails, areas in need of work, as well as helping us develop videos for promotional purposes. Jill mentioned that Dave provided a Go-Pro at the Mud Run and edited footage for us to put on the Recreation Youtube channel. We do need to find volunteers at our events to take more photos, videos, etc.*
- *Geocaching Event? Jill explained that we tried to have the Boy Scout Troops help us with a Geocaching event a few years ago during the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Geocaching. It never came to pass. There is a geocaching club in Northern NJ that is willing to help build trails, as long as they can then place geocaches. There are geocaching events, but these are not large revenue generating events.*
- *Scavenger Hunt event – families at schools, competing? We need a volunteer to coordinate. We have a photo scavenger hunt and an Amazing Race type event in our folder of possible events.*
- *We need to promote our YouTube channel more.*

- **Continuing Concerns**

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events,
- Community Service recommendations for Fall/Winter
- Recommendations for Agenda – *please e-mail me!*

**Enclosures:**

RAC Minutes (blue)      Recreation Monthly Reports (Salmon)      Fall Brochure      2016 Recreation Event Dates (green)