



## WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES 11-15-2012

Present: Dick McDonnell, Ken Lehr, Bob Kacergis, Tracey Ramondo, Steve Eill, Andrew Vaskas

Staff: Mary McLoughlin, Director of Parks and Recreation

Absent: George McHugh

### 1. Administration

- a. Park Board Appointments – Dick McDonnell welcomed Andrew Vaskas and Steven Eill who were approved by Board of Supervisors as new Parks and Recreation Board members.
- b. Minutes for Approval: October 25, 2012 – Mr. Lehr motion; Mr. Kacergis second; all in favor.
- c. Park Ordinance Amendments have been submitted to the township manager for presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- d. Budget Report line items will be changed in the Township system to the Department of Community and Economic Development format. Ms. McLoughlin reviewed the new format with the Board.

### 2. Communications

- a. November 2012 Towne Crier newsletter arriving in resident mailboxes.
- b. Constant Contact – Ms. McLoughlin informed the new board members about the Parks and Recreation e-news and announcement sign up at [willistownparks.org](http://willistownparks.org) and asked the Board to let their neighbors and friends know about the service.  
Mr. Kacergis recommended the sign up info be submitted to Great Valley School District's electronic newsletter and that it be posted at the libraries and advertised through the *GO WilMa!* program.

The topic of Township Administration communications to residents was raised. Mr. Lehr administers a communication sign up menu for West Goshen Township which gives residents the opportunity to choose which modes of communication they would like from the township: paper, email (Constant Contact), or auto call. Ms. McLoughlin has been discussing new modes of Township communications with Mr. Burman, Township Manager.

### 3. Park Management

#### Garrett Mill

- a. Football – Ms. McLoughlin reported that the trial football at Garrett Mill will not be extended into 2012 as the field does not fit in the baseball outfields as was originally agreed but goes into the skins; the soccer field turf can not handle more use; the Township does not mow the grass as low as the football team desires; and, the Township can not accommodate the team trailer on the field.
- b. Field maintenance – the soccer field is in poor year end shape; usage starts earlier and ends later each year; spring and fall management includes fertilization, aeration, seeding; general consensus is that there isn't anything further that can be done aside from resting it during the peak use times which means not accommodating the teams and is therefore not an option.

#### Mill Park

- a. Dick McDonnell reported that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post (VFW), which is now a Church, used to let Chester Valley Little League (CVLL) use their fields. Subsequently, when the VFW subdivided their property for sale, they gave Willistown Township a portion of the property that included the fields with the stipulation that CVLL be able to continue to use the fields.
- b. Ms. McLoughlin reported that there was a suspected water leak at the property and that the water bills escalated to \$350+ per month in the spring and summer. She asked if Chester Valley Little League (CVLL) watered the field. Mr. Eill and Mr. McDonnell reported that the fields were not

watered, that they were wet even in the dry summer months and that CVLL had Hunt Engineering of Malvern out there to do a study to see why there is so much water. Mr. Eill reported on the new leadership at CVLL: John Long, Pesident; Dan Little, Vice President; Dale Vandergrift, Grounds.

- c. Recreation Program Management Discussion – Cross Municipal Promotion – tabled due to time limitation.

#### 4. Planning

##### a. Malvern-Willistown Greenway Plan

- i. Public Meeting Nov 14, 7pm Sugartown Elementary Recap from Mrs. Romando and Mr. Vaskas who attended:

Overall, very positive feedback; data was provided by the planner to back up positive nature of trails; biggest concern of the public was safety, particularly at the intersection of Paoli Pike and Grubb Roads; Rick Collier, the trail project planner, said the trail needed to cross Paoli Pike and they really wanted that crossing at a traffic light.

Rick Collier was very good with the concerned citizens and assured them they would work out their concerns. There was a mixture of Willistown and Malvern borough residents.

- ii. Ms. McLoughlin mentioned the two Township Parks and Recreation Surveys of 2004 and 2009 ranked trails and walking/hiking as number one amenity/activity and that the positive feedback from this meeting reflected that desire.
- iii. Ms. McLoughlin reviewed the next steps: a project narrative and final plan, which the Parks and Recreation Board and Planning Commission will both review, and send comments back to the Malvern-Willistown Trail Steering Committee. The Committee will respond to those comments and submit a final narrative and plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The Parks and Recreation Board and Planning Commission will send final recommendation(s) and/or comments to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration in the adoption process.

##### b. Open Space Review Board

- i. Bob Kacergis Report in executive session to discuss potential acquisition.
- ii. Ms. McLoughlin reviewed the Official Map and the reasoning behind its alteration to include trails from Comprehensive Plan.
- iii. Consideration was given and a recommendation was made to include the mini park areas on the Official Map.
- iv. Recommend changing color coding – so Proposed Open Space doesn't look the same as Protected Open Space.
- v. An inquiry was made about the area identified on the map as Crum Creek Open Space. Ms. McLoughlin responded that the Willistown Conservation Trust wrote a successful grant to Chester County to acquire 2+ acres of land along Crum Creek on behalf of Willistown Township that was contiguous to a few other acres owned by the Township. Commentary included that it didn't seem like a park because there was no designated parking area or signage. Further discussion was tabled due to time limitation.

#### 5. New Business

##### a. Looking ahead to tasks 2013:

- i. Comp Plan Review of Parks & Recreation Sections
- ii. Establish Board Priorities
- iii. 2013 Events and Program Review & Board Participation

6. Next meeting December 13 7:30PM. Ms. McLoughlin will be sure the date is publically advertised.

7. Mr. McDonnell motioned to adjourn; Mr. Lehr second; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Mary McLoughlin, Recording Secretary.