

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MARCH 1, 2005**

The meeting of the North Lebanon Township Parks & Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building located at 725 Kimmerlings Road, North Lebanon Township. The meeting started with the pledge to the flag.

The following members were present:

Clyde Ebersole	Chairman
Gary Zelinske	Member
Heather Pederson	Member
Sheila Wartluft	Asst. Manager

Also present at this evening's meeting was Constance Snavely of 1822 Janet Avenue.

Chairman Ebersole called for a motion to approve the February minutes.

MOTION: Motion was made and second to approve the February minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public this evening.

Chairman Ebersole at this time asked if any of the Board members have used the new Township website yet? None of the members have used it yet. Sheila then said that there is not only Township news, but links to various other sites of local and national interest. In fact, there are links to the school district, other government agencies, news channels, newspapers, etc. It is a really good website. Chairman Ebersole asked if any of the members would like to come in and make arrangements to sit with Sheila and look at it, would that be possible? She said that would be OK. Our intention at some point is to have a separate computer, but at this time, they would have to use one of our computers. Chairman Ebersole said he thinks this is a great way for the Township residents that do not attend any of the meetings to keep up on the latest news. Sheila mentioned that we also have the feature on the website that allows people to e-mail questions or comments directly to the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Walking Path Grant – 8th Avenue Fields

Sheila said she received a letter from Dennis Yablonski, the secretary of the Community and Economic Development. We were able to obtain a grant in the amount of \$10,000 towards the construction of the new walking path that will be handicap accessible here at

Walking Path Grant – 8th Avenue Fields(cont'd)

our new lot. The Trail/path will come off of North 8th Avenue so that the people that cannot reach the fields due to handicap or using a stroller will be able to via this path/trail. Chairman Ebersole asked if the slope of the field here, as at Long Lane, is under consideration to provide seating for spectators? Sheila said the path that is going to be constructed is going to remain down at the flat area, not above the slope where the people may be able to sit. Since the parking lot is down below, it will provide the grandparents and the people with handicaps or strollers and opportunity to be able to enjoy the game as well. The money from this grant has not yet been received, as it takes some time. Chairman Ebersole asked if there is still some consideration to put it around both of the areas? The ball field and up over the hill? Sheila said she doesn't think there will be enough money for both. We would have to do a matching fund in order to do both, which we simply do not have. It is always something that could be considered down the road. Chairman Ebersole asked if we checked to make sure that we don't have the same situation that we have at the Lake with the wetland areas? Sheila said, yes, we did look at that and we have been told that the lower soccer field, the bigger one, does have some water issues, as it does get very wet. They have a lot of problems with it. We have a couple of things that we want to try this spring once the weather clears and the fields dry out. She also stated that we have a few things that are working against us with this project as well. We have the home down there that we own and doesn't give us a lot of room to maneuver around. We also have a drain field down there that we have to work around. Ebersole asked if there were a person on a wheelchair, would they be able to see an event without too much trouble? Sheila said they should be OK from that area. They would also be able to get over to the baseball area as well from the soccer area on the new trail. We have to get our diagram together, but we were waiting to see if we got our grant before we went too far into the project.

Baseball

According to Sheila, Gene Martin must be back and is in charge of the baseball program with Union Canal. She received some correspondence from him. He sent a letter asking to use the 3 baseball fields here at the Township Building. They are planning to have opening day on Monday, March 14th, so hopefully the snow will go away. They are planning for a maintenance day on Saturday, March 12th, to prepare for the season and she is assuming that this is try-out day as well. We did budget 2 loads of dimontex for these fields, so they should be OK. Dave is trying to make sure that it can be put on the fields prior to the start of the season, but that is all dependant on the weather. They said if we do not have it in time, that is all right. As usual, it is always a very nice letter and they are always willing to give us the insurance and whatever we need. Chairman Ebersole asked if the girl's team would be able to use the fields this year? Sheila said that letter that she received is for baseball/softball, so she is assuming that the girls are included in this. Chairman Ebersole asked if all of the schedules have been received? She said she did receive the schedules and they are saying the games/practices will be run until the end of July. Chairman Ebersole asked if the arrangements have been made with New Covenant School? Sheila said evidently there is no conflict since nothing has been mentioned to her. She did mention that she received a request from the Lebanon Christian Academy to use the fields here at the Township as well. They are trying to get a

Baseball(cont'd)

baseball team together. Unfortunately, there are not enough fields to go around for everyone. She is assuming that there is no conflict between the Ebenezer baseball teams and the school, since she has not been contacted.

Another thing that Sheila wanted to mention is that Dave purchases all of his lawn care products from Lesco. They have decided to do a demonstration on renovating ball fields at Long Lane. There should be quite a few people that will be attending. Not only will Municipalities be attending, but schools as well, anyone that has ball fields will be here. So we will be getting a lot of the work done for free.

Pertinent Issues

Sheila said staying with the topic of walking trails, she received her PA Parks and Recreation magazine and they had some information on this topic. She said a lot of push is being placed on walking/hiking trails, versus the ball field push that was put on several years ago. It seem the trails are the thing that everyone likes to do now. It is a very popular thing. Chairman Ebersole added that there is a lot more people interested in the green space issue right now and this would be the thing to do.

At this time, Ms. Snavelly asked what type of trails the Board is looking at? Are you looking at paving the trails or what materials are we looking at? Chairman Ebersole said there are some new materials that would be beneficial to look at for the trails. Not all trails have to be paved in order to make them accessible. He stated that the trail in the Jonestown Park is made out of tamped aggregate. It has held up very well for the time that it has been in. Sheila said this is one of the things that the Greenways Committee is looking into. Between the Lebanon Valley Conservancy and the Berks County Conservancy, they are looking at preserving open space, whether it is water trails or walking trails. They have a variety of different options available to them to preserve the green space that we have. She mentioned that there is a public meeting on March 17th at the Jackson Elementary School in Myerstown for all of those people that would like to attend. She is planning on attending the meeting to gather some more information about the program. Sheila told the Board that she feels our property over on the east side, the Moyer Property, is the perfect piece of land to provide a winding path or natural trail. It has a lot to offer our residents, things that cannot be seen from the roadway. If you look aroundat other areas, there are lots of creative ideas that people have come up with to make their resources inviting to the public.

One last thing that Sheila wanted to let the Board know is that next month, she will have a fees-in-lieu report to give to them. To give the Board a better prospective of how expensive it is to have recreation areas, she was given the report on the mortgage payments on the property on Narrows Drive. The quarterly payment of \$4,071.01 will be made for the next 52 quarters. We have been paying on this for the past 2 years and it will be paid off in 2018. This really puts things in prospective when looking at the cost of recreation. We did raise our rates for fees-in-lieu when a developer comes in, to help take some of the pressure off, but the costs are still high. She also mentioned that the

Pertinent Issues(cont'd)

Narrows Glen development across from the elementary school would be giving us their signed recreation agreement next week. We should probably get their fees in June or July. Since they submitted their plans prior to the increase, they will be paying the old rate of \$750 per lot.

Chairman Ebesole asked about the outcome of the re-zoning hearing for the property on the same side of the street at the school. Was this ever resolved? Sheila reported that the re-zoning was denied for this parcel.

OLD BUSINESS**Volleyball Posting**

Chairman Ebersole said after reading the minutes from last month, there seems to be some activity in this area. Sheila said she had Cheri read the statement at the Supervisors meeting and had Bonnie place it on the website as well. She has not received any phone calls, nor has she heard anything new on the building expansion to report to the Board this evening. She thinks they are trying to get the bids out this month. Chairman Ebersole asked if this is a league that uses this court or is it just pick up games? Sheila said she really does not know, since no one has contacted us. She thinks they basically just show up. Ebersole said, if it is a league, is it a problem if they use the Lions Lake court? Not that Sheila is aware. If there is some kind of group that uses it, she is sure we will hear about it. We are trying to provide as much information as possible to the public, via the Internet, the newsletter, etc. Chairman Ebersole said we can provide the information, but the public has to make the effort to use the resources available to them. He then asked Sheila is the website has any special headings that she may notice is getting more "hits" than another? Sheila said our site is not equipped with a counter. She knows that people in passing have told her they are glad that certain bits of information are posted for their review and reference.

Pertinent Issues

There were no pertinent issues this evening.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items this evening.

With there being no more business brought before the Recreation Board, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Haser
Recording Secretary