

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
April 5, 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:

Steve Smith	Member
Jay Snavely	Member
Gary Zelinske	Member
Sheila Wartluft	Asst. Manager

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

Steve Smith called for a motion to approve the March minutes.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Fishing Derby

Sheila announced for those members that are new on the Board, that each year for the past several years, Hershey Foods has held a fishing derby for their employees and their families at Lions Lake. In the past we have always charged them \$750 for the rental for the entire day. Mainly, because it is a very large event. Dave has to come in and empty things and take care of things so it is not left go. We have to rent a dumpster for the day because our other trash receptacles cannot handle the amount of trash that this generates. Also, the electric, water/sewer, and the other utilities are a lot higher for this rental compared to the other regular rentals. They have asked for a decrease in the fee that we charge them this year. That is the number one thing that we have to decide this evening. She reminded them that it has been \$750 for the past couple of years. Steve asked if she is referring to Hershey Foods when she says "Hershey"? She said yes, it is the employees of Hershey Foods. She doesn't have a lot of information from them this year, as it is a new person that is in charge of the event. Jay asked if they would be putting a tent up again this year? She said from what she understands, they will be putting up a tent; they will

Fishing Derby (cont'd)

have a DJ, prizes, etc. Sheila did tell them that they would have to contact the Fire Police for this event, since it will involve a lot more vehicles and traffic control. They will also have to provide insurance for that day as well. Right now, they are just waiting around to see if they can get a decrease in the fee that we charge them. Gary asked the reason for the request in the reduction of the fee? Sheila said she is figuring that they felt it doesn't hurt to ask. Gary then asked what the \$750 fee is based on or is this set fee? Sheila said years ago, they had offered a certain fee to use the Lake facilities. After talking to Dave about this rental, she said she was told that we use an awful lot of paper products, a lot more water according to the meter, the electricity goes up, we rent the dumpster for the day and then he is going to be charging overtime to come in a take care of things during that day. Jay mentioned that they had originally used what is now the Ice Cream store. We have since taken that away from them due to a conflict with the previous operator of the ice cream parlor. She said the only thing they have needed the building before in the past is for the prizes and things. So it is mainly used for storage and she feels we can find somewhere for them to store what they need to put away. Steve said so this fee is not based on any kind of schedule that we would have? Sheila said no, it is just one of those special events, like the fireworks stand, that we have rented for the past several years. Gary then asked when we rent this facility to Hershey; do we normally make money on the rental? Sheila said she would say we make a little bit of money, but it is not a huge amount, when you look at the total year and deduct all of the costs for running the facility, we do come out a little ahead, but not much. When she asked Dave about reducing the fee for Hershey, his opinion was to knock off no more than \$100, because of the expenses for this function. Jay did want the Board to know that Hershey does stock the lake for this event, which is about 1,000 fish. So whatever is not caught is left for everyone else. Sheila said they **used** to, but since it is different people organizing and running the event, she is not so sure they will be stocking this year, but will find out. Steve asked how many people we are talking about for this function? Sheila said they usually get about 400-500 people. She said she has never been to this event, but from what she has heard, it gets pretty full. From what Jay has heard, it is for all of the Hershey employees and their families. Sheila said that they have not yet paid the fee for the event, as she feels they are waiting to hear from us and our decision. Steve asked if she felt they would go elsewhere if we did not lower the fee? Also, he would like to know if they are indeed stocking the lake with trout. If that is the case, that must cost a pretty penny as well. Sheila said she could ask them if they are going to stock the lake if that is going to determine whether or not we lower the charge. Steve didn't think that this would determine whether or not we lower the cost to them, but it would be nice to know. Jay feels if they put the number of fish in that they normally do, we could lower the fee to at least \$700.

MOTION: Motion was made and second to lower the fee to Hershey Foods for the annual fishing derby from \$750 to \$700. Motion approved.

Trail Information

Sheila said she brought some things along concerning trail construction and maintenance. She spoke to a representative from this particular company and he told her that this is our gas tax money at work. She went on to the website and found out that it was a little more intense than she was expecting it to be, but was very interesting. Steve asked if one of the people we had talk to us about our plan didn't mention something about using the gas tax dollars for this type of thing? Sheila said she thinks too that someone spoke on that during one of the presentations, but they called it something different. She thinks they called it "ICE TEA" money. Right now, according to all of the publications and information available, trails, bike paths, and the like are the "in" thing. Steve said he thinks it should be one of the key things that we look at in our new 10-year plan, trying to connect our parks, somehow, from Ebenezer to here, to the parks in South Lebanon Township. We have so many people that walk in various areas that are not safe to walk. We need to give them a safe place to walk where they have space. Sheila said she agrees with Steve, it seems to be the hot topic these days and it is also good exercise for adults, the elderly and kids. Sheila said she thinks we are in a false sense of security when it comes to space. We think we have plenty of space, but when it comes right down to it, we don't have as much as we thought we did. She is trying to get a COPY OF THE Tulpehocken Greenways Feasibility study from one of the engineers, because it is a really neat study. She did talk to one of the engineers, but they are contracted to only give out so many copies, so she doesn't know if she will get one or not. It is a neat study and basically it ties all sorts of things together. There are trying to get a trails system going that spans the whole east coast. Not to offend anyone, but all we have talked about at these meetings is the need for ball fields and the lack there of, and never discussed any other type of recreation. We do have a need for other types of recreation because people ask for it. Steve said that doesn't mean that we will ignore the baseball fields, but rather, direct some attention to other types of recreation for the Township residents. Steve said he has heard an underlying current from different people that want something more of what the general public can make use of. Sheila said she would love to see something done on the new property involving trails and leaving it natural so that it can be truly appreciated. The other thing that has to be addressed is the maintenance issue, Steve said. But if it is something that is going to be used, then it is worth the money, even if we would have to hire another person to properly take care of it or more equipment. He said he could justify that for taxes better than a lot of other things. Resident Constance Snavelly said it would be possible that we could get volunteers from the Township to help maintain an area as we are discussing. Sheila said we keep asking for volunteers in the newsletter. She also sent a letter to the high school, since the students have to complete a project prior to graduation. It took a couple of months, but we finally did get some responses from kids that want to work at the Township as part of their projects. Some of the kids that responded were honest and told her that they are not the "outdoors" type of person and that is fine. They can do something inside, but there are plenty of kids that are interested in outdoor projects. Each of the students have to do 30-hours of volunteer

Trail Information (cont'd)

work before they can graduate and she thinks this would be the ideal project for them. Steve suggested putting a list of projects on the Judges docket in the courthouse for those persons who are sentenced to do community service. Sheila said we already tried that and we ran into a lot of problems with "babysitting" those individuals. Steve asked if that isn't the responsibility of the County to watch the individuals while they are working? Sheila said no, once they are here, they are our responsibility. She originally thought it would be a good idea as well, but it didn't turn out that way. She is trying to be optimistic about this program because we have to fill out a form before they can get the credit for doing the work.

"Wetland" Walking Path Update

Sheila said we thought for years that the water problems at the Lake had to do with the City Water lines. When they had a water main break out there, we decided that we were going to find out once and for all, if this was true or not. We went out and had Martin's do a water test. They tested for fluoride and chlorine and found none at all. The City tested as well and found the same results. Dave went out and got some quotes to re-do the walking path. Today we went out to work on the walking path. When we went out and looked at the path several months ago, we tried to be conservative and come up with a path that would be well out of the waters way. The water has crept to a whole new level, because when they went out today to start working on it, they couldn't get started because the City was afraid that if the equipment that is used to do the work is too heavy, it could break the line. So we have to wait until the City is done with the line repair and they mark the line. She is not sure if we can do anything at this point with the wet weather and the saturated ground. Resident Snavelly said that the PA Equine Council were the folks that ran the free trails seminar where Sheila got her information. They actually go out to sites where people have this type of problem and help to come up with solutions. They do this all with volunteers, free. Now, whoever owns the trails probably has to come up with something for the payment for the supplies and the like. But it wouldn't hurt to give them a call. Sheila said unfortunately, she had to leave early today and she and Dave could not go out to see how wet it is. But in the wetlands, we have to put some sort of cover back; we cannot leave our trail back in there. We are trying to figure out a way to route it around there so it doesn't just stop. The area that we had proposed to put the turn around area has never been wet in the past, but now it is. So that poses another problem. She is not sure what we can do, since we ran into the City problem, now this problem. Dave is quite frustrated because they wanted to do this asphalt work this month, because obviously, the rentals start soon and this is their slow time of the year. Apparently, there used to be an old driveway in the area where we would like to put the turn around for the path. Sheila's concern is the money end of this. If we try to do a quick fix to just take care of this for now, we are talking stone and paving and probably not something permanent. She would like to Board to take a look at this and give her their impressions. Jay asked how they could be working on this path,

"Wetland" Walking Path Update (cont'd)

when they don't even know where it is going yet? Sheila said we knew where it was going to go, but when they went out there, it is very wet. Dave's concern was that he wanted to get the walking path up and in use for the people that are walking. He is thinking now, that it will be June or July before it dries out enough to work on it. She knows we cannot do anything in the wetland areas. Steve said it is probably a good thing that they cannot do anything right now, because if they pave it and then we find out next year that this is another area that gets flooded, we are right back in the same situation. It is probably good that we have seen the water area expand and take this into consideration for when we actually get to pave. It may cost more money but it will be done right. Sheila said she thinks Dave is torn because he is out there, and sees a lot of people that are frustrated because they cannot walk on the path, it just stops. But she doesn't think a "quick fix" is the solution. Resident Constance Snavelly explained to the Board, the route that the walkers are using while the path is under construction. Steve asked Ms. Snavelly if we were to use the current path that the people are walking now, would that be the solution? She said it wouldn't be a great solution, but a solution. Given time, you see what people will do when given a certain situation and this just happens to be the way they are navigating the park. Although the way people are walking, if you were to go that route, it would be a very small piece to pave because they use the short cut to the other section of path. Sheila asked if she were to go out there tomorrow, would she be able to see the path she is referring to? Constance said you could probably see some of it. She said if Sheila would let her know when she would like to go out, she would go with her and show her where everyone is walking. Sheila asked for her phone number and said she would call her when she knows her schedule for tomorrow. There were some concerns about the safety of the path, as it exists now. Sheila said that they were thinking of placing some signage and trying to keep the area blocked off so that people do not use the section that is ripped up. She said this is an evolving plan that keeps taking turns that we originally had not planned for. Jay said he still doesn't understand why if this is a wetland, did they approve the path years ago where it is? Sheila said they are going to go out and look at it again to see what we can do.

Dawn-to-Dusk Light

Again, the concession stand had a break-in. Dave is telling her that it is pretty dark down at the south side of the stand, facing the lake. He is wondering if we want him to install lights there as well. She clarified the location as at Long Lane, but the south side facing the lake area. Steve asked if we own that building that is used for the concession stand? He was told yes. Jay said we shouldn't need lights with all of those houses across the street. Sheila tried to explain that it is on the other side of the building, where people from those houses would not be able to see anyway. Steve asked if we ever thought of putting an alarm system in the concession stand? Sheila said she doesn't remember ever discussing that. She said you would then have to have someone to respond to the alarm. Steve said that lights and dogs/noise are the two things that scare people off that you

Dawn-to-Dusk Light (cont'd)

would need. Sheila said that is why they were thinking of the dawn-to-dusk lights. Steve said if that would not work, we could then think about the alarm system. It was asked if it is one specific door that is broken into all the time? Sheila said no, because they also got into the area where the football uniforms are stored, which is in a totally different part of the building. Steve said we all need to go up to the path, check that out and then, go to the concession stand and see exactly what could be done to eliminate this problem. Sheila asked the Board how they felt about this. Steve felt we should go ahead and put the lights up. If that doesn't work, then go to the next extreme, whatever it takes. If we have to take back all of the keys that have been handed out to various individuals, then so be it.

Pertinent Issues

Sheila said that Cheri asked if she would bring this up at the meeting this evening. Fire School is always the week of April 23rd and 24th. The County Firefighters Association requested to use the dry hydrants at the lake to provide water for one of their courses that they are holding. They want to use it on Sunday from 12:30 to 4:30. They propose to use the dry hydrant located on the corner of Water Street at the spill site and deposit the water back in the lake in the vicinity of the boat ramp at Jay Street. On the Water Street side of the lake, they will close only the immediate corner of the street and leave all traffic and residents un-disturbed. On the Jay Street side, they will be completely off the roadway. All of the water taken from the lake will be re-deposited into the lake. Sheila said she is almost positive that we have done this procedure before. This is just a courtesy to ask for our permission. She is sure that we do not have any rentals for that weekend since it is very early in the season. Steve asked if we need to vote on anything for this function? She said no, but we would need a recommendation to give to the Supervisors. The Board responded that they had no problem.

Sheila mentioned that there was a presentation by Lesco Corp at the Long Lane fields, teener field. They used the Lyter Field to give the presentation that was open to other municipalities and anyone that works on athletic fields. She has since spoken to Dave and he said the field looks great. She is hoping it still looks good after all of the rain that we have had.

Sheila had one more item that she needed to discuss with the Board this evening. She presented them with a copy of our park rental forms that the various parties use to reserve the pavilions. She said we received a phone call from a company called Gill Rock Company. They have been renting our facility for a number of years for their annual company family picnic. They had reserved their date this year and paid, but then decided since it was their 90th anniversary, they should do something special for the employees and decided to take the employees and their families to Hershey Park for the day. The problem is, they would still like to have the use of the pavilion next year, for the same weekend. They are not asking specifically for a refund, rather, they want to be assured that they would be able to have the same weekend next year for their picnic. She

Pertinent Issues (cont'd)

wanted to remind the Board that our policy has been no refunds. However, in the past, we have refunded the money if someone has asked for it and if it was 30 days prior to the rental date. Jay said if he remembers correctly, one of the family members had passed away and that was the reason it was refunded. Jay said we had this same instance many years ago, when a party cancelled one year, but wanted to have it the same weekend next year. At that time, we told them, OK, but we will not refund your money for this year. If they don't pay for the date this year, then whoever rents and uses it this year, gets first chance at that date. Steve said, so in other words, they paid the fee just to hold the date open for next year without being there. Jay said that's right. Steve said he thinks we should hold on to their money so they can have it for next year. The Board concurred with Steve on this decision.

OLD BUSINESS**DCNR Funding**

She wanted to let the Board know that she still has not heard anything on this yet. She is hopeful we will hear something later this month.

Tulpehocken Feasibility Study

Sheila reported that they had their public hearings, one in Lebanon County and one in Berks County. They are at the point now, that the two conservancies are going to adopt it and implement it. She is hoping she will get a copy of it, because it is really interesting and has a lot of great information. She wishes the entire Board could have attended and taken part in the study. Earl Meyer from Lebanon County Planning was there to present the comprehensive plan and also was presented a slide show, which was very interesting. There were some property owners there and seemed very interested in the program. When she gets all of the information together, she will let them know so they can come in and take a look at it. Steve asked if the conservancy is looking for the municipalities to help with funding for this project? Sheila said she thinks they are only looking for help in the area of ordinances and zoning to help keep the thing going. They have so many avenues available to them for funding that they have not asked for anything from the municipality. Steve then asked if they are going to allow the public to access these areas or just conserving it? Sheila said they divided the plan into five different scenarios. The least invasive method was to not have the housing development or the industrial plant right along the stream. Then it got gradually more invasive from there. The plan is very ambitious. What she found very interesting is that she was the only representative from a municipality there in the entire study and we are at the tail end of the plan. The plan extends all the way down to Blue Marsh.

Pertinent Issues

Sheila reported that we would be holding a pre-bid meeting next week for the building expansion project. Hopefully, by next months meeting, she will have a better idea of what is going on with the construction process. The only indicator that she has is that once the project starts, it is to be a 9-month process until completion.

Steve asked if Sheila has received comments or complaints about the "No Fishing" sign down off of North 8th Avenue at Briar Lake? She said she hasn't received any calls or hasn't heard anything about it. She said her understanding is that it was a private lake prior to Briar Lake going in and the only people that fished there were invited there.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items this evening.

With there being no more business brought before the Recreation Board, meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Haser
Recording Secretary