

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
September 2, 2008**

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:

Constance Snavelly	Chairperson
Jay Snavelly	Member
Corey Hetrick	Member
Gary Zelinske	Member
Steve Smith	Member
Sheila Wartluft	Ass't Twp Manager

Guests Present:

Dwayne Elder	Ebenezer Baseball Assoc
Justin Sloss	Baseball Association

MOTION was made and seconded to approve the July minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A.) Ebenezer Baseball Assoc

The President and Vice-President of the Baseball Assoc from Ebenezer introduced themselves to the Board members. They explained to the Board that they thought it would be a good idea to attend tonight to find out what the Twp is planning for the sports fields. Sheila Wartluft stated the only budget response she had received was from the Baseball Association. They had submitted a written list of requests to consider for the upcoming budget season. She explained the requests received are discussed by the Park & Rec Board and then are submitted to the Board of Supervisors. During the budget meetings the determination of what is applied to the 2009 budget and what is cut is completed. The final word comes from the Board of Supervisors.

Constance read through the submitted list of requests. She then asked Sheila if a cost for the requested items is known. Sheila has discussed with Dave Strohm some of the items that can be done at a low cost and will require little or no maintenance.

1. Dave has voiced the idea of some type of fencing as opposed to netting behind the backstop. Some of the members were in agreement about the maintenance issues involved with netting. Dwayne Elder of the Baseball Assoc said this appears to be a safety issue so it should be classified as a priority issue.

Baseball Assoc (con't)

Constance asked if all the items were listed in the associations' priority order, the response was yes.

2. The dugout area was also discussed because of a mud problem. It was suggested the roof of the dugout be extended to cover the area.

3. A ridge vent in the concession stand area is requested. A vent at the end of the peak is also a possibility to cool it down and create some air flow through the building.

4. Originally it was thought a waterline was needed for a slushy machine. All that is needed is a 110 outlet which is already there.

5. Purchase of Pro Choice for the teener and midget fields, one half pricing from Twp and one half from the association.

6. Fencing along first and third base line to protect spectators is listed. Elder noted that they have some fence poles and other materials in the association's garage, which the association is hoping to use. Sheila discussed the problems in the past with installing fencing and as soon as it is finished the kids are kicking and tearing the fencing.

7. Create walkway between concession stand and the room that houses the breaker boxes. This would also create an area for the freezer and refrigerator and some space would be freed up for the concession stand. Sheila said her understanding is that this walkway will be created by cutting through the block wall.

Sheila explained to the new association members the efforts that are being made to make these buildings safer. The fact that the keys were previously printed and passed out to anyone and everyone creates a problem for the Township. Dave has planned to make a concentrated effort to make the buildings secure. Sheila warned the assoc members that the changes will probably start in 2009.

8. The repair of the outlet at the batting cage is needed. Dave indicated the wires are broken off underground.

9. Permanent fence behind the midget backstop and landscaping timbers used to box area in as requested. It was explained this area is used by the batters to practice their swings. The fencing is to prevent other people from getting with the bats. The other item requested is stone dust to help keep the grass growth down.

2009 Budget Requests

Chp Snavely asked Sheila if anyone else presented their “wishlist”. Sheila responded no and today was the deadline to submit the requests. She told the Board she will check the dropbox tonight before they all leave.

Sheila questioned Dwayne Elder if he is the one who signed the association’s agreement regarding the use of the fields. Mr. Elder replied it was Randy Wise who had signed the agreement. He told the P & R Board he found out about the agreement while reading the Township website. Chp Snavely explained some of the difficulties the Twp has had in the past, the reasons for creating this agreement and the necessity of requiring all sports fields to be controlled by the Recreation Board.

NEW BUSINESS**Historical Costs**

Dave Strohm has put together some numbers regarding the cost of the fields located in North Lebanon Township. An estimate for just the mowing and maintaining of a single field space came to \$1400 to \$2000. There are many other small expenses that are not accounted for. The effort to keep these fields up to date and in good condition has necessitated the decision to ask for “user fees”.

Relay for Life Request

Katy Gearhart had called the Twp office to request use of Lions Lake Park and the walking trails to host a Relay for Life event on Thanksgiving Day. The Team Bulldog wants to host a 5K run/walk in the morning from 8-11am. She wants to be sure the Twp is aware of their plans. No facilities will be used other than the port-a-potties and the pavilion area. Katy told Sheila she knows the insurance certificate will be needed. Chp Snavely said there will probably be some trash collection involved. She asked the rest of the Board for opinions. The Board indicated they were all in agreement with this request.

Pertinent Issues**Repair Work at Lions Lake**

There is a total 200’ of storm water pipe that must be repaired at Lions Lake. In order to accomplish this, water must be drained from the Lake itself. We are not allowed to lower the lake more than 5’. The work is scheduled, tentatively, for October 1, 2008. The project will last about 2 weeks. The old rotted pipe will be replaced and an end wall will be added. Money from Growing Greener was awarded for this project so that the labor is the only thing that will be needed.

DCED Notification RE: Union Canal Elementary School

Sheila told the Board we were provided notification about a project Union Canal Elementary School applied for funding from DCED to construct a concession stand and bathroom. No action is required from the Twp. The work is scheduled for spring of 2009.

OLD BUSINESS**Agreements/Costs-Field Requests**

Chp Snavelly asked if any of the members had checked into some user fees from other municipalities or sporting fields. A member mentioned some information received in the past from Linglestown. Chp Snavelly said she had researched some other information. Some of it had come from areas that include much larger programs so the fees might be a bit steeper. A conversation started about the cost of umpires per game. Some of the other considerations include the use of lights and an hourly rate for use of the fields. Some of the other methods provided would be to count the number of people on the playing field.

Sheila mentioned some of the expenses from the Twp's perspective. These expenses were for recreational areas not just playing fields. In 2007 the amount of \$39,645.80 was spent for Lions Lake, Community Park and Long Lane athletic fields. This included all pavilion rentals, wages, utilities and all the athletic field expenses. The amount of money collected that year was \$9,325.00. Chp Snavelly said the amount of the user fee must be in line with what is realistic for the associations to pay. The amount will help offset the amount of money spent on the athletic fields every year. Sheila stated the numbers prove we are not asking for a user fee to make profit.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the various costs and expenses for the recreation areas located within the Twp and the constant struggle with budget constraints.

Softball Tournament

Sheila reported to the P & R Board that a softball tournament was held. Due to the on again and off again scheduling with this tournament, we lost a pavilion rental. The tournament group was charged the regular rental fee.

Rails to Trails Update

Chp Snavelly reported that research is being completed on the Reading Rails, which is the company that formerly had held ownership of the tract. Through the course of the years this company has allowed some people to purchase certain parcels of the land. The ownership of these parcels is being researched. Letters to adjacent property owners are also being generated asking for opinions and interest levels. Various responses are being received from the property owners. The Committee is hopeful they will receive enough support from some of these property owners that the rest of the owners will soon agree to what is being proposed. A public meeting will be held at the North Lebanon Twp building on Wednesday, October 15th at 7pm. The plan is to have several different information stations established for the people to wander around and review the information. A wagon tour is planned for the existing Lebanon County Rail Trail @ 10 am on Sept 13th. Some progress is being made however, it is a slow go.

Pertinent Issues

Fireworks Tent Rental

Sheila told the P & R members that they have received a thank you note from the Fireworks people who rent space to locate their tent. They have also indicated the dates they are looking at for 2009. The fee for this is an issue which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chp Snavely asked all members to do some research and find some fees being charged for various recreational related activities in other municipalities and/or organizations. Sheila mentioned that a decision should be made at the October meeting in order to allow the Supervisors time to review along with the proposed 2009 budget information. In the end the Supervisors will make the final decision about when the associations will begin paying a user fee.

With there being no more business brought before the Park and Recreation Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa L. George
Recording Secretary