

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2009**

Adequate notice of this meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, has been given by posting one copy of the Notice of Meeting in the Washington Township Administrative office, by making copies to the "Express Times" and "Star Gazette," and to the municipal clerk in Washington Township.

**ATTENDEES**

J. DeFranza, D. Detrick, W. Godfrey, M. Kries, D. Schott, J. Miller Absent: B. Jeffries, R. Berrie, S. Fritts, WTRC Administrator, N. Godfrey. J. Cooper, DPW Supervisor and Committeeman B. Mueller were also present.

The Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman M. Kries at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were submitted for approval.

**MEADOW BREEZE PARK**

Pavilion Weather Proofing - J. Cooper reported that it is scheduled for the week of August 17 - 21 being done by Spotless Carpet Cleaning for \$9,999.00.

Graffiti at Playground - W. Godfrey reported that there is graffiti all over the playground equipment up at the pavilion. The small police car has been broken and graffiti has been written on the seat. There was a discussion on putting up another camera facing the playground. J. Cooper will check out what type of camera could be used up there that would work for the playground area.

Tennis Court Repairs - J. Cooper said that the Township Attorney is going to be asked to draft a letter to Halecon, stating that they are responsible for the repairs. J. Cooper and N. Godfrey have numerous phone calls into them and they are not returning any of our calls.

Batting Cages Relocation - Still pending DEP approval.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mill Pond Road Property - to be deferred to the end of the meeting.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

W. Godfrey reported that we have collected \$6745.00 in use fees to date.

**ACTIVE AREAS**

Nothing new to report.

**PASSIVE AREAS**

D. Detrick reported that at Pohatcong Creek Natural Area the bridge that was damaged by vandals has been fixed by the members of SAVE. However, D. Detrick said that the first bridge is in desperate need of repair. J. Cooper will take a look at it to see what DPW can do to restore it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Steve Hachlica, a township resident, brought along his son, Justin who is going for his Eagle Scout badge. For one of Justin's merit badges, he has to attend a Township meeting and asked that maybe we could help him out on one of his eagle projects, perhaps even fixing a bridge at Pohatcong Creek Natural Area. D. Detrick suggested that the WTRC should come up with project lists that scouts can volunteer to do.

Lifetime Achievement Award - D. Detrick reported that the sub-committee met and made their decision, B. Mueller presented their pick to the Township Committee and they agreed with their decision and told them to go forward. The person they all decided to be the recipient of this award was Dick Rhinehart. A bench will be placed in the park to honor Dick Rhinehart.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mill Pond Road Property - W. Godfrey reported that he spoke with N. Godfrey who said that P. deBoer, J. Cooper and herself will be meeting with Bill Gleba, Township Engineer (Finelli Engineering) to go over the needs of the WTRC in regards to what we would like to have this property used for. Input from the Recreation Commission is necessary. There is approximately 38 - 40 acres that can be developed into recreational fields with parking. J. Cooper suggested that the Commission seriously consider putting in one or two turf fields, to be used as a multi-purpose field, for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey etc. It would eliminate having to spend money on irrigation, seeding, lining, cutting/grooming and the other hidden cost involved with grass fields. If we go with turf fields Warren Hills High School will be purchasing the machine that is needed to rake and groom turf fields, and we could possibly go into a shared service agreement with them to split the cost of the machine and be able to use it for our fields. After a lengthy discussion on field usage needs, it was decided that the Recreation Commission would give to the engineer a plan which consists of a 75% - 25% split consisting of 2 artificial multi-purpose turf fields and possibly one or two baseball/softball fields. Also, restroom facilities, playground, and a multi-purpose recreational building big enough for two basketball courts and possibly a walking trail.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

D. Detrick wanted to thank J. Cooper for taking the time to attend the Recreation Commission meetings, it really does make our meetings more effective. In the past, we were not always able to get the answers to our questions in a timely manner, and with him attending our meetings, we've been able to get things done in a more timely manner.

D. Schott asked if there was anyway to get the lights wired up so the basketball courts could be used at night. This subject has come up before and previously it was decided that there just wasn't enough need for the courts to go through the expense to have the courts lights operational. If the time comes when the need is there, then the Recreation Commission will consider it.

Having no further business to discuss, D. Schott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45, W. Godfrey seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Godfrey,  
WTRC Administrator

cc: P. deBoer - Acting Twp. Administrator  
J. Cooper - DPW Supervisor  
D. Dempski - WTYA President  
Township Committee