



TOWNSHIP OF NEW BRITAIN

Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Founded: 1723

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Helen B. Haun
William B. Jones, III
Gregory T. Hood
Cynthia M. Jones
Mary Beth McCabe

Eileen M. Bradley
Township Manager

MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2021

A Meeting of the New Britain Township Park and Recreation Advisory Board was held on January 19, 2021 at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, Pa., and with the use of the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform, beginning at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: James Bender, Kathi Sexton, Marco Tustanowsky, Nancy Jones, Cynthia Jones, Ashton Bender, and David Turcich. Also, in attendance were: Chris Green and Craig Kennard, Gilmore & Associates Engineers and Chelle Clancy, Michael Walsh and Kim Goodwin, New Britain Township Staff.

Reorganization

Appointment of Temporary Chair: Mr. Bender nominated Mr. Tustanowsky, seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Jones, and unanimously carried.

Appointment of Temporary Vice Chair: Mrs. Cynthia Jones nominated Mrs. Sexton, seconded by Mrs. Nancy Jones, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Bender called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Tustanowsky nominated Mr. James Bender for Chair, seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Jones, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Bender nominated Mrs. Sexton for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Tustanowsky, and unanimously carried.

- 1. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2020:** Upon motion by Mrs. Nancy Jones, seconded by Mrs. Sexton the October 20, 2020 minutes were approved as written.
- 2. Cotton Park Preliminary Plan:** Mr. Chris Green from Gilmore & Associates presented the plan on screen while describing the Cotton Park Preliminary Plan Overview:
 - Park entrance and driveway slope grade increase towards the initial set of parking areas.
 - Outer loop trail with additional parking areas.
 - 240' x 135' Multi-Use Field smaller than previously presented, not regulation size but aligned with the easement.
 - Pump Track area location has a gradation.

Mr. Bender recommended to relocate the Pump Track to a more accessible location for less maintenance and a flatter area. Review the finish in asphalt.

- Pavilion will be moved to the other side of the Play Area.
- One (1) Mile perimeter trail will loop at a Rain Garden.
- Entry Plaza currently has Impervious Areas for Restrooms and Concessions.
- Increased outfield fences out to 350' which meets High School Tournament Standards.

Mrs. Cynthia Jones recommended relocating the batting cages to another area. Also, for additional bathroom stalls to be added. Mr. Bender recommends a shortcut path to the concessions area be created for a more direct route due to the grading.

- Trail paving width is currently 10-foot-wide for multiple users to share the trail path, plow trucks use by the Public Works Department, and ADA compliant usage and to keep the naturalized woodlands to ensure there are no zoning issues.

During Public Comment, Mr. Bender stated to New Britain Township Resident Mary-Margaret Briggs that comments are welcome from residents.

- Four (4) Conceptual options for the Park's Entrance & Road Traffic Calming to slow drivers down on the Pedestrian Crossings:
 - Option One: Speed hump with decorative treatments before the intersection.
 - Option Two: Raised intersection bed.
 - Option Three: Raised median island.
 - Option Four: Raised median island with raised speed humps to slow folks down and have visibility.

Mr. Bender, Mr. Tustanowsky, and Mrs. Cynthia Jones selected the recommendation of Concept Option Four for the Park's Entrance & Road Traffic Calming: Raised median island, raised speed humps to slow drivers and increase visibility. Consider flashing lights at entrances, flashing beacons with sensors for pedestrians, decorative asphalt.

- Four (4) Playground Concepts from various 3rd Parties geared to children two (2) to twelve (12) years of age:
 - Option One: GAMETIME
 - Ground Level Play & Shade Structures with Sensory and Accessible pieces such as net chord structures and slides.
 - Option Two: Little Tikes
 - Structure has a vegetative/naturalized theme. Walls or grade to be used for access to top of structure, sections are not all linked by ramps. There is use of fabric shades.
 - Option Three: Kompan
 - This Play Structure has a more urban look. There is a tall tower which is a unique aspect that may draw people in, along with a merry-go-round structure though not a lot of activities are found at the lower level. There is also a more natural use of materials for a play and balance structure in another section.
 - Option Four: Landscape Structures
 - This structure uses play panels with ground play components. The middle area contains a misting tubes structure that will not use a lot of water to operate. Since there is a potential for being slippery, perhaps, moving the

misting structure possibly off to the side may help. Ground structure is mainly a rubber-based surface using underground drainage. A perforated underdrain at the bottom is placed to catch water, placed at highest point in park.

Mr. Bender, Mr. Tustanowsky, Mrs. Nancy Jones, Mrs. Cynthia Jones, and Mr. Turcich recommends the Little Tikes Play Structure Concept for best use of the space and blending, accessibility. Mr. Turcich requested for Mr. Green to review if the fence could possibly be taken away and use the landscape for a natural look. Future recommendation for the GAMETIME net chord climbing structure.

Mr. Tustanowsky selects Landscape Structures as his second option. Though, Mrs. Cynthia Jones states that the Landscape Structures option seems flat. Mrs. Sexton feels like the structure is for a younger age group. Mr. Turcich pointed out that without the sails, it may just look like sticks sticking out. Mrs. Nancy Jones also pointed out that strong winds could possibly damage the sails. Mrs. Cynthia Jones suggests we include feedback from parents of children with special needs. Mr. Bender responded the more feedback we gather, the better representation we will have.

Next steps, per Mr. Green will be to schedule a Staff Meeting to get the involved changes and present to the Board of Supervisors. From there, grants will also be applied for to help fund the project. Mrs. Cynthia Jones also recommends that the project be tackled in stages in a phased approach.

- 3. Easter Egg Hunt:** A motion was made by Mrs. Cynthia Jones and seconded by Mr. Bender and unanimously carried to select and carry forward **Option 2** with logistics determined by e-mail after the meeting. The date for the Easter Egg Hunt will be for Saturday, March 19th with a rain date of Saturday, March 26th.

Option 2: Photos with the Easter Bunny (Socially Distant) with a Pop & Go Food Drive
Recommended photos with the Easter Bunny (Socially Distant) with a Pop & Go Food Drive. Eggs will be given away in brown bags. Potentially, spacing out a winding bunny trail with markers (bunny prints or egg shapes) for folks to step out of parked cars and wait their turn for a photo opportunity at the Pavilion. This option provides normalcy for the children with the presence of the Easter Bunny at a social distance. Children may sit on hay bales with the Easter Bunny socially distant behind them for a photo opportunity. Helpers could drop off the brown bags filled with eggs prior to each visitor's photo opportunity.

The Food Drive donation area could be placed to the side. Routes will be set up with cones with a snaking line in and out of the parking lot as needed. The Food Drive is in partnership with the Food Larder.

- 4. July 4th Parade:** A motion was made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mrs. Sexton and unanimously carried move forward and plan on having the parade on Sunday, July 4th this year. Mr. Bender recommends hoping for the best and review where we are as the date gets closer. Mr. Bender encouraged Mrs. Clancy with guidance and mentioned how Mrs. Lapp reached out to the following: Central Bucks Regional Police, Fire Departments, Local Businesses, Parade Marshalls, and Junior Parade Marshalls. Mr. Bender mentioned to also reach out to Doylestown to inquire if the Memorial Day Parade is going to occur this year.

Mr. Bender ensured Mrs. Clancy help from the Advisory Board and regular volunteers with staging including himself, Mr. Maeyer, Mrs. Nancy Jones. Also, preparing for the food when everyone arrives at the Pavilion from the parade will be Mrs. Sexton and Mrs. Handschuh.

- 5. Other Business:** Open Space Preservation virtual attendance by Mr. Ken Jones will be possible for the meeting in February per Mrs. Cynthia Jones. News from the morning's Bike & Hike Committee Meeting mentioning that inspections are being completed for the Neshaminy Greenway Trail. Signage is ordered and will be put up once available. In addition, Mr. Walsh shared the utility pole on the Kiefer Property is awaiting PECO to move it. It is currently in the right of way of the trail. This option was the most cost effective. The Public Works Department will have to pave due to cost cutting including a final coat of black top to be scheduled. Finally, the review process for the Coleman Property piece of the trail for the Grant for the New Britain Property Connector is in place and awaiting decision from the DCNR Board.

- 6. Public Comment:** None.

- 7. Adjournment: MOTION:** A motion was made by Mrs. Sexton, seconded by Mr. Bender, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Bender, Chairman

Chelle Clancy, Secretary

Next meeting – Tuesday, February 16, 2021 @ 7pm