



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 October 20, 2020

A Meeting of the New Britain Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on October 20, 2020 with the Zoom meeting platform beginning at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Kathi Sexton, Marco Tustanowsky, Cynthia Jones, Nancy Jones, Jessica Handschuh and David Turcich. Also, in attendance was Jo Ann Lapp and Chelle Clancy, New Britain Township Staff.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2020: Upon motion by Mrs. N. Jones, seconded by Mrs. C. Jones the July 21, 2020 minutes were approved as written.

2. Open Space Evaluation: Mary Margaret Briggs and Ken Jones joined the Board to discuss their open space report along with the purpose and defining end goal of the project. Ken Jones would like to see the habitat and nature quality improved. Mr. Marco Tustanowsky described the Park & Recreation Committee as an Advisory Board that would provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors about the project, since they are not a voting board. Examples of improvements of unmanaged wooded areas; invasive species could be more actively managed with volunteers or resources to procure plant native trees or shrubs. Ken Jones has volunteer obligations with such groups as the Master Watershed Group. There are groups with many people who can volunteer and do the work. Pine Run Creek and Neshaminy Creek run through the first batches of open space that we have looked at. Mrs. Briggs volunteered to walk the group on accessing the said spaces. Mrs. Lapp inquired regarding the possible liability involved with removing invasive plants and volunteering and Ms. Bradley who helped with the Zoom meeting access mentioned that Waivers of Insurance would cover groups and volunteers.

Ken Jones would like to see the food web improve for wildlife. The Open Space project would also require maintenance per Mrs. Sexton. The volunteer organizations such as Master Watershed Group that Ken Jones is involved with would bring the project leadership. Mrs. Handschuh agrees with planting of meadows and educational component signage. She would like to see more analysis provided to the Advisory Board for review. If questions and outlines were answered such as a list of organizations to collaborate with and how to access the sites including any erosion and types of native species to be planted, along with engineering required for certain parcels and any involvement with the Bucks County Conservation District. Ken Jones agreed to set up a plan for a delineation of one parcel at a time and further outline more information for the Park & Recreation Advisory Board to make the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Each parcel on the Open Space List would be reviewed with the Advisory Board which will include access points highlighted, a defined proposal including implementation of change methods in a phased seasonal timeline approach.

3. Halloween House Decorating Contest: Judge's Overall Best in Show Pick is 30 Maple Avenue. Ms. C. Jones announced to include her vote for 30 Maple Avenue along with the other members who voted for the same address. All other judges will send an email to Mrs. Clancy. Announcements will be made online on social media and the winners will be called to pick up their prizes. For next year, with the Fall Festival, a possible Pumpkin Carving Contest or Gingerbread House Decorating Station were ideas that the group had recommended. Unfortunately, per Mrs. Lapp, the Pumpkin Carving will be cancelled based on lack of interest.

4. Santa House: Mrs. Lapp announced that we will not be holding a Santa House this year. A possible contactless recommendation will be to have a mailbox in front of the Township Building for children to drop off their letters to Santa. Mrs. Lapp and Mrs. Clancy will then reply with a handwritten letter to the children.

Mr. Turcich mentioned that on December 19, 2020, the Chalfont Fire Company will tour Santa and will not have any interactions. Purchased candy canes will be handed out by elves wearing gloves and masks. Volunteers will not be able to do this for a two-day duration since it takes about eight to ten hours, as well as food donations they must go through. The trucks visit ninety percent of developments. There is a total of five people on each truck which includes Santa and two elves. Staff will create flyers and messaging for Santa's mailbox. Mrs. Lapp will inform the Advisory Board if help is needed with the handwritten letters.

5. Other Business: The next scheduled Food Drive will be sometime in February/March 2020. The Santa Mailbox could also include a flyer for a Diaper Drive Collection at the office at 207 Park Avenue. Mrs. Handschuh recommends the Santa Mailbox flyer can contain information that explains the importance and need for Diapers. A Diaper drop box could also be located next to the mailbox for Santa Letters. A visual cue could also explain the organization and what they do, their mission. Another partnership to consider is also a drop-off for Toys for Tots.

Mr. Tustanowsky also recommended for everyone to spread the word about the upcoming Veterans Ceremony on November 11, 2020 at 11:00AM.

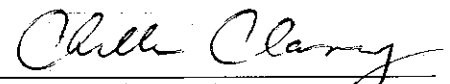
A request from a resident was mentioned by Mrs. Lapp to re-install the adult fitness equipment at North Branch Park. Mrs. Lapp requested the Park & Recreation Advisory Board to review and think about a recommendation. There used to be wooden bars such as pull up or parallel bars and placards to review what types of stretches could be done on the equipment. Due to COVID, the signage needs to state for individuals to use at your own discretion since these would be high touch surfaces.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Adjournment: MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Tustanowsky, seconded by Mrs. Handuschuh and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Bender, Chairman



Chelle Clancy, Secretary