



# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD

*Regular Meeting Minutes, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 2010*

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**Called to Order at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

## **BOARD ATTENDEES:**

Corey Bruno, Tom Deily, Kevin Drake, Liza Gantert, Julie McDonell, Marti Schwartz, Dennis Timmer

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from December meeting (held on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010) approved through a motion by Kevin Drake, second by Liza Gantert, and unanimous approval.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Leibensperger, 5640 East Texas Rd, was concerned about the tone of a letter which a citizen received complaining of a weed nuisance. The board recommended contacting the Lower Macungie Township (LMT) zoning enforcement officer. Ms. Leibensperger also raised a concern about the unfinished portion of the path along the East Texas Park baseball diamond. Kevin Drake described the forthcoming fencing and subsequent paving of the pathway.

## **Open Discussion w/ Bruce Fosselman & Sara Pandl**

President Timmer discussed the need for cooperation between the board and Sara Pandl on the 5-year strategic plan, which should be ready to accompany 2011 budget request. Bruce Fosselman discussed receipt of a \$40,000 DCNR grant to further LMT pathways planning, and added that township and county funds are available for land purchase for open space or greenway improvement. Mr. Fosselman and Ms. Pandl will be meeting with Scott Cope of Wildlands Conservancy on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the grant. Both recommended that the Board continue with pathway segments already approved, and allow the additional planning funds to help connect what has already been built. Kevin Drake indicated that DCNR was eager to help LMT develop pathways further, which led Julie McDonell to ask when work might start on the LMT campus path; Mr. Fosselman thought that Lee Lichtenwalner would send out bids in the coming months.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Camp Olympic:**

Liza Gantert updated the Board on planning progress. Links are available on the LMT website for documents describing options, and financial assessment, for the park. Simone-Collins created a conceptual layout for the whole park, which Liza shared. It included the following recommendations:

- The agricultural area should be maintained as agriculture and shared orchard/farm and community garden space.
- Access is suggested to be added at a new entrance location at the peak of the park along Cedar Crest, with the old macadam lot removed (with poolside parking ~100 in total).
- Hiking trails and a wetland boardwalk are proposed, as well as re-designing the creek confluence to control erosion.
- Other highlights: an overlook near the lime kiln, a tree house area, educational signage, picnic areas, informal playfields & lawns (no organized sports), sand volleyball courts, tot lots.

Next meeting of the Camp Olympic committee is Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at LMT Campus.

### **Greenways/Comprehensive Trails:**

No updates for the board.

### **EAC Report:**

No updates for the board.



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## **LMYA Report:**

Mark Earl of LMYA provided a participation update. In 2009, 5008 registered players took part in LMYA sports. Mr. Earl clarified that this did not indicate 5008 individuals but rather 5008 registrations. LMYA thanks LMT and this board for supporting these sports.

Winter sports are under way, with 649 players currently participating in basketball. Spring sports registration is now open. Mr. Earl wondered about ways to extend advertising of LMYA to LMT citizens; LMYA will run ad in upcoming newsletter but they are soliciting other ideas. President Timmer suggested a flier/insert in waste and sewer bill; Liza Gantert suggested utilizing email or the LMT website to raise awareness without the additional wasted paper.

## **Discussion with Jim Lancsek (27 Jan 2010):**

President Timmer, Julie McDonell, Sara Pandl, and Marti Schwartz were present.

The updated Red Maples plan has moved recreation area to space along Grange Road – several board members raised concerns about proximity to traffic, especially with additional retail development nearby and creating a space which seems like a public park. President Timmer discussed connecting Northern & Southern pathways, then moving units to allow for a central recreational area - Marti Schwartz presented an overlay which created space in the center of the development. Julie McDonell noted that the Board needs to ensure that the developer understands that LMT Zoning has final authority.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

No updates for the board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Red Maples Appeal to the Board**

Engr Larry Turosey, Att'y Mark Malkames, Bill Mayo Jr. and Bill Mayo Sr. represented Red Maples. Mr. Turosey gave an overview of the revised layout. He indicated that the recreation area was placed near the entrance to minimize impact to residents; a fence or shrubs lining the recreation area would be added to existing large trees along Grange Road. Regarding pathways, private sheds have been built along the back of residences in the center of the previously-discussed loop, making placement of path impossible. Path location was reviewed with pictorial tour. The Board emphasized the benefits of a pavilion and child play area near the center of the community, and agreed that the basketball court and sand volleyball court may be removed given the nature of the community, leaving a pavilion and entrance parking which would also serve as a covered bus stop for residents. Tom Deily suggested using the existing cul de sac as parking. Developers indicated that a plan incorporating walking path from entrance to cul de sac will be drawn up. President Timmer summarized: retain entrance parking lot, pavilion, open space along Grange Road, South Path, connector from South Path to cul de sac with child's play area, and smaller pavilion.

### **Letter to Greg Horvath re: Tennis Courts**

President Timmer responded via email to Mr. Horvath's desire for additional tennis courts, but the email was returned.

### **Public Safety Commission**

Corey Bruno and Julie McDonell shared discussion highlights from the Public Safety Commission meeting on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> regarding hunting on LMT property, and discussed archery-only designated hunts. Tom Deily wondered if herd/nuisance control was needed, and the board discussed how much hunting would really take place on LMT property even if hunting were allowed. The Board felt that no further action from P&R is required.

### **Hills at Lockridge Plan for Pavilion**

Bruce Fosselman updated the board that the plans have been received and bids will be tendered in the coming months.



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## **Playground Safety Policy**

This topic will be discussed by the Board of Commissioners at their first February meeting. Peter Nelson reviewed the Safety Policy; President Timmer shared Mr. Nelson's comments and questions for the Board's information. The Board discussed the benefits of internal certified inspectors versus outside inspection contractors. President Timmer will respond to Solicitor Nelson answering questions where possible and referring Solicitor Nelson to Public Works, as well as comment where necessary at the Board of Commissioners meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Signage Presentation**

Corey Bruno presented a concept for communizing and updating township signs in all parks. Bruce Fosselman and Sara Pandl indicated both a need and desire for "Welcome to LMT" signs at township boundaries. Mr. Fosselman suggested that recent rebranding initiatives (through Larry Schneider) should be tied into this project, and asked that P&R include a teaser in the spring newsletter about upcoming opportunity for community input for signs, with a formal announcement of the design contest in the summer newsletter. The Board suggested a downloaded form with copies available in the community center would be a good way to distribute contest materials. Mr. Fosselman asked Mr. Bruno to shore up costing and specific details and then present to the Board of Commissioners to secure funding for 2011 budget. Mr. Fosselman will hold off other boards who are considering signs, and Mr. Bruno will include the Public Safety Commission in the list of stakeholders. Mr. Fosselman will also ask Dean at Public Works to inventory existing signs. The board discussed including "Leave No Trace" statements on the signs and how to make signs uniform even if facilities may differ slightly from park to park.

### **Jaindl Western Properties Stone Quarry Conditional Use Hearing**

Marti Schwartz shared a draft letter commenting on this Board's concerns with the quarry proposal. President Timmer and Marti Schwartz approached Jeff Zehr for his comments on the proposal; the draft Ms. Schwartz circulated covered the Farmland Preservation concerns that Mr. Zehr and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission share. The Board asked that the need for reclamation plans for the Jaindl Quarry be emphasized. Tom Deily suggested that the letter be distributed to the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners. President Timmer will forward the updated letter to Bruce Fosselman, asking that it be submitted as a letter of record to the proceedings of both groups.

Julie McDonell made a motion that with the discussed revisions, the Board send to Bruce Fosselman the letter submitted by Marti Schwartz re: Jaindl Quarry. Tom Deily seconded, unanimous approval.

### **Portable Basketball Hoops**

Board discussed the magnitude of this issue relative to other issues facing the township. President Timmer wondered if there are enough basketball courts in parks. Tom Deily made the statement, with board agreement, that "The Board feels that LMT provides numerous basketball courts in the township; however, we cannot control private use of any portable units."

### **Spring Newsletter**

P&R items for the spring newsletter, as presented by the Board:

- URL for park amenities list
- Teaser regarding signage development
- A reminder that parks are Leave No Trace, including dog waste
- An announcement to new township residents about LMYA and its website
- Public Safety rules regarding hunting

Julie McDonell will submit these articles.



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## **Public Works Quarterly Meeting**

President Timmer and Kevin Drake were in attendance with Bruce Fosselman, Sara Pandl, and Dennis Hinkel; Brian Higgins of LMYA was unable to attend. Handicap parking was discussed, including Tom Deily's findings regarding requirements. Sara Pandl thought that grants may be available to become compliant where needed. Cross Timbers playground selection is approaching; Dennis Hinkel will make a selection for the new equipment. President Timmer asked Public Works to retain existing swings if possible, even if they have to be moved. The Church Lane parking project was discussed, but there was some confusion regarding the number of additional spaces created, so President Timmer requested Tom Deily count additional spaces created and send the number to Kevin Drake.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

President Timmer noted the move of the regular February meeting to March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made at 10:15 by Liza Gantert, seconded by Tom Deily, unanimous approval.