

**Board of Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2021**

The Regular meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 via ZOOM video conferencing.

Chairman Coiley called the meeting to order 7:30 p.m.

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committeeman Mihalko read the following statement: Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act by posting written notice of the meeting at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10 and posting such notice to the following newspaper: Morris County Daily Record and filing same with the Township Clerk.

ATTENDANCE: Present were Commissioners: P. Berkenkamp, R. Brueno, M. Giorgio, P. Monteverdi, G. Salese, Committeeman Mihalko, Alternate Commissioner C. J. Engelberger, Alternate Commissioner T. Tasso, Chairman J. Coiley, Supt. D. Brennan, and T. Quirk, Program Coordinator/Asst. to the Supt. (PC/AS).

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Budget: Committeeman Mihalko reported on the budget meeting that was held last week. Although budget will be tight, the Committee was able to keep Open Space at 1 cent. The overall budget, including open space will come in at under two percent.

Fields: Commissioner Berkenkamp pointed out the existing Black Brook large field could be turfed. Although there is no perfect scenario, Committeeman Mihalko considered this an excellent suggestion. He spoke with Engineering and it appears to be able to fit and would solve several of our problems. The location already has lights in place, is flat, and provides for an added field along the back end. However, parking would have to be increased.

Mihalko reviewed the four potential options. The first is Brick Yard with many challenges. The second is Allegro. Although there is space, it will take a lot of time and money to get that completed. Third is Malapardis. Again, like the Brick Yard location it would be another neighborhood disturbed by lights and noise. Finally, the fourth option is Black Brook. With agreement from the Commissioners, Mihalko said he would like to meet with Engineering and get the project moving. A discussion followed. **Chairman Coiley made a motion to pursue the**

project at Black Brook and have a project manager take a look at feasibility and cost. Commissioner Giorgio seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ENGINEERING: Supt. Brennan read the Engineering report from David Leo, Assistant Township Engineer:

Bee Meadow Pool Dual Slide/Rock Wall – Project complete.

Wegmans “Hit the Trails” Maps – Project complete. Last post installed at the Whippany Burying Yard.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase I – Project complete.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase II – Progress plans received from consultant are being reviewed.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase III - Received grant for \$172,331.50. Proposal for design is under review.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase IV – Letter of Intent submitted. Application submitted August 31st.

There is no change from December except to report the last post installation for the “Hit the Trails” project.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S REPORT: Tom Quirk, PC/AS reported on the following:

Girls LAX: As registration stands to date, we need two more registrants per grade level to proceed. Even if teams are lean we will move forward. Per President of JGLA, all teams across the state are experiencing lower registrations due to COVID. His suggestion is to move forward even if not quite the amount of participation as in past years. There was some good news, Vinnie LaRocca will be returning as Assistant Coach for girls grades 5-6 team.

Field Permits: The deadline for Spring/Summer field permits was yesterday, February 15th. Each year there are more and more club teams requesting time and it’s become a struggle schedule everyone.

Other: Alternate Commissioner Engelberger asked if the DOH had changed their status on where we stand with wrestling being allowed at the Community Center for practices. PC/AS Quirk replied that Executive Order 220 allows for practices, as well as two parents per competitions. However, he said that he will need to look into the Executive Order for further details and clarification.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Supt. Brennan reported on the following:

Special Events: Supt. Brennan said she spoke with Brian Foran about ordering fish to stock two of the ponds, one at Bee Meadow and the other at Malapardis. She is not yet sure if there will be a fishing contest this year, but at least people will be able fish.

Bee Meadow Pool: Supt. Brennan stressed to the Commissioners that everyone's help is needed to recruit new members. There is a \$77K deficit that needs to be resolved through new memberships. Membership packets will be going out the end of next week, and registration opens March 1st. A Request for Quotes (RFQ) for the concession stand will be sent out this week. A request was made to have the banners for the Bee Meadow Pool hung on Malapardis Road and Jefferson Road indicating registration is open. In addition, we are planning to do some aggressive advertising.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wegmans Hit the Trails: The program rolled out February 1st and already there has been a great response. Supt. Brennan said she will order additional passbooks to keep up with the demand.

Supt. Brennan said when she is back in the office tomorrow her and PC/AS Quirk will be contacting Artie Aerhardt about wrestling.

Committeeman Mihalko said he has been put in charge of the Memorial Day Parade and was looking for volunteers. He asked anyone who was willing to help to reach out to him.

MINUTES AND VOUCHERS:

Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to approve the vouchers from the February 11, 2021 meeting. Alternate Commissioner Engelberger seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Brueno made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Monteverdi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Coiley. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Schill
Board Secretary