

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

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

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

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Coiley 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, Chairman J. Coiley, Supt. D. Brennan, and T. Quirk, Assistant Superintendent.

Alternate Commissioner Tanya Tasso was absent.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supt. Brennan forwarded information she received from Shaw Sports Turf to the Commissioners for review prior to the meeting.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Supt. Brennan read the following report from the Engineering department:

**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 31.

Supt. Brennan asked Committeeman Mihalko if there have been any decisions made on the Committee level regarding the tennis courts. Committeeman Mihalko said he was told that as of now the priority is getting as many roads done as possible, and for now Recreation projects will be on hold. The Commissioners expressed their frustration as this project has been ongoing for three years and the money has been allocated. Committeeman Mihalko explained the delay is in part due to not receiving any bids for the project.

#### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Budget:** Committeeman Mihalko reported the budget came in under 2 percent, including Open Space. He also mentioned that there is good news in that there might be money coming from the Federal Government in the amount of 1.4 million dollars. Assistant Superintendent, Tom Quirk said that he was on the call with Administrator Giorgio and Silvio Esposito, CFO about that issue. The reality is that while the money is in our sights it most likely will take years before it is received. He further clarified that the money is being paid for reimbursement of revenue loss, i.e., hotel taxes, business losses, etc. However, in addition there is about a half a million dollars due the Township of FEMA and CARES money that will come in a lot sooner.

#### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

**Girls Lacrosse:** Tom Quirk reported a number of games have been scheduled to begin in early April. Practice will begin next week. Registrations have been received on all three levels with grades 3 and 4 being the biggest group.

**Swim Team:** Both Quirk and Brennan spoke with a few parents interested in running the team and keeping the program going. There was a Zoom meeting this week with a potential President and the outgoing staff. The meeting went well, and we expect another successful program and smooth transition.

**Spring Permits:** Permits were completed and offered to eligible groups. Everyone accepted, none were declined. There were only three groups that did not get permits because no field time was available. A Zoom meeting with all the groups is scheduled on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to review field rules.

**Superintendent's Report:** Supt. Brennan reported on the following:

**Summer Camps/Programs:** The cost for Summer Plus, Travelling Teens, and the Wildcats were sent prior to the meeting to the Commissioners for review.

Summer Plus will be held at Black Brook Park. Tents will be placed at the park in case of light rain. Several activities that have been booked including an animal group, a circus performance, etc. If the weather is bad on those days the events will be held here at the Community Center in smaller groups. Unless there is a heavy steady rain, camp will be held. There will not be any refunds for those days when camp cannot be held due to weather conditions. Supt. Brennan feels camp is very reasonable at less than \$20.00 per day.

Supt. Brennan was happy to report all the adult counselors from Summer Plus and Travelling Teens will be returning again this year.

With regard to Wildcats, the issue will be location. Supt. Brennan assumes that we will not be able to use the schools. With the exception of basketball, we can host all other programs at our facilities. If the instructors want to run the basketball program outdoors, we can use Black Brook.

**Commissioner Brueno made a motion to approve the pricing for all Summer Camps including Summer Plus and Travelling Teens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Monteverdi. All in favor, motion passed.**

**Easter Egg Hunt:** After much consideration a decision was made to cancel the traditional easter egg hunt that was to be held on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our alternate plan is to divide up the 2,000 easter eggs among the five parks and “hide” the eggs at the playgrounds in each of the parks. A notification will be sent out via Community Pass and the Township notification system announcing the “Easter Bunny” left a surprise for the children. Parents can bring their children to the hunt at anytime during the designated hours. Each of the eggs have a small prize inside such as a tattoo or small gift. In addition, two “golden eggs” will be hidden at each of the playgrounds and those eggs will have a message saying they recipient has won a special prize to be picked up at the Community Center.

There are an additional 1,000 eggs that have been donated to the fire department. The Easter Bunny will ride on the fire truck and give them out to children on a drive through town.

**Movie Night:** On Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Recreation will be partnering with the fire department and for a family movie night.

**Fishing:** There will not be a fishing contest this year. However, we will be stocking the ponds. At each of the ponds there is a decorating measuring stick. A date/time will be announced, and children can go fish, measure their catch, and send a picture. A prize will be offered for the largest catch.

**BEE MEADOW POOL:** Supt. Brennan reported that to date \$64k has been collected in membership fees. In the year 2019 at the same time we had collected \$20K.

Last year there were no guests allowed at the pool. This year guests will be allowed Monday-Friday, no weekends. Supt. Brennan said she spoke with pool Manager Eddie Cashen and they both discussed and agreed there will be no pool parties this year as they are too hard to control. Something new being tried at the pool this year comes at the request of the Madison YMCA. They requested using the BMP for their long course swims. They meet early mornings, and typically supply their own lifeguards. Revenue could be upwards of \$7,000.00

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fields:** Committeeman Mihalko reported that he has not yet received any plans from Engineering. However, they have been in touch with Suburban Consultants, and they are waiting for them to get back with a quote. At this point it is moving ahead. In tandem with Black Brook, he asked Engineering to start thinking about Allegro and asked them to put something together as he feels Allegro shows some promise. Mihalko said he was told that roads are priority so nothing new about fields will be forthcoming for a few months.

**MINUTES AND VOUCHERS:**

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

**Committeeman Mihalko made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Giorgio seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN: Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Coiley. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Schill

