

OCTOBER 14, 2008
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chair Helene Reczka with the following members present, Dick Lagg, Ed Burgio, Mike Morel, Jodi Halteman, Brian Robinson, Patti Clark and Janet Bardello. Liaison Tom Walsh was also present. .

OPENING STATEMENT: The Chairman noted compliance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 as being met.

MINUTES: Approval of minutes from the August 12, 2008 meeting was made with a motion by Patti Clark. Brian Robinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Approval of minutes from the September 9, 2008 meeting was made with a motion by Helene Reczka. Jodi Halteman seconded the motion. All in favor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairperson Reczka opened the meeting to the public. No public present. Meeting was closed to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT /RECEIVED:

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| 1. | Greater Andover Seniors | Thank you for Senior Luncheon |
| 3. | Mrs. Gregori | Letter re Teen Dance |
| 4. | Scott Both | Letter/Agreement for DJ Teen Dance |
| 5. | Township Fire Official | Copy of occupancy sign for Hillside House and Hillside Hall |

At this time we reviewed all correspondence. We appreciated receiving a thank you note from the Greater Andover Seniors for the recent luncheon we hosted in their honor. We commented on the letter and agreement for the DJ, Scott Both and Mrs. Gregori regarding their participation with the upcoming teen dance. Mrs. Gregori has sent her donation check to cover the DJ's services and Scott Both has signed his agreement to provide those services. We also received copies of the occupancy signs for the Hillside Park Hall and most importantly, the Hillside House. This was one of the issues we needed taken care of if we want to begin using that building.

At this time, Dick Lagg made a motion to file all correspondence. Brian Robinson seconded the motion. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review of Senior Luncheon: Everyone agreed it was a great success. We moved the start time up to 12 noon and as we had anticipated, we had people showing up as early as 11:15 am! As usual, the food was fantastic. Everyone who wanted to was able to take leftovers home so they were pleased. The slide show for entertainment seemed to be well received. The majority of the people sang along and enjoyed the patriotic theme. We all commented on how well Bob Smith puts these programs together for us. We hope that he will agree to work with us again next year. We will continue to hold the luncheon in the fall. This time of year is perfect for people getting around without the worry of inclement weather.

At this time, Liaison Tom Walsh addressed the Committee re the parcel of land recently acquired through the Open Space Fund. Actually, the deal has not been completely closed but it is going through the proper channels before it is transferred into the Township's control. Liaison Walsh stated that the control of the parcel will be in the hands of the Recreation Committee. We will have to develop the property as a lakefront parcel for boat launching onto Lake Iliff. The property is located off of Limecrest Road. We will have to put 5A down for a roadway to a parking area and then build a boat dock. Once this is done, the State will stock the lake which is a great asset for this parcel for township resident's use. The use for this parcel is limited due to wet lands but we will be able to make a simple road, parking area and boat dock. We will be able to use money in the Open Space Fund for this work. Mike Morel commented on how the permit process for any work at this site might be a bit daunting but we will persevere.

Next Mike Morel reported on a recent meeting at town hall regarding using the township fields when the weather conditions are extreme or anticipated to become extreme. Recently, on a Sunday, a heavy rain developed during the afternoon and some soccer games were cancelled and some where not. The problem was that some people were of the opinion that the games should never have been started let alone cancelled during regulation time. So discussion took place at this meeting with representatives from both travel and recreation soccer and both fall ball and regular little league along with representatives from the road department, recreation committee and township administrator. After much discussion, it was decided that the Road Department supervisor, Darren Dickinson will check the weather forecast on Friday's before leaving work and if there is a credible threat of severe weather forecasted for the weekend, he will email around to the contact people and tell them they need to be aware of potential closure of the fields. He will then post a red flag at the fields. Then it will be up to Mike Morel for soccer use and Scott Price for baseball use to check the fields prior to game times and then either keep the fields closed if it is determined that they would be damaged from use during the poor weather conditions or open them if the poor weather threat doesn't materialize. These contact people will then send out an email to coaches in their program to give them advance notice if the fields are closed. We are depending upon Mike Morel and Scott Price to make a fair evaluation of the weather conditions and the potential for damage to the fields if they are used during poor weather.

Dick Lagg questioned how we will include the field use by the adult soccer teams in this policy. We need to also make sure that the adult soccer league doesn't use the fields when the weather is a problem. Eric Stanton is the contact for the adults and we will depend upon him to keep the adult league informed. Liaison Walsh reminded everyone that budgets are tight and if it should look as if people are abusing the fields after great sums of money have been spent on their improvement and upkeep we shouldn't be disappointed if we are denied requests for future funding for the fields.

Helene Reczka commented on the amount of trash she has witnessed being thrown around the fields during the games. We have been attempting to provide ample recycling containers at all field sites to grab people's attention so that they dispose of the cans and bottles properly. There are also regular trash containers placed throughout the field and park area but unfortunately people will ignore these containers and just throw the trash on the ground. Helene recommended that we put more signage up to warn people not to litter in our park. The coaches should also send memos to their teams urging them to take care of trash properly. Also, the park and fields are off limits to dogs but every day you will see people violating that law. We need to spread the word through the organizations that use the fields and then hope for the best.

At this time, Ed Burgio informed the members that the basketball equipment has been received and the plan is to begin installation as soon as this coming Thursday. Mike Morel mentioned that he has gotten the signs for the rink updated to reflect the dual use with basketball and roller hockey and open skating. Of course, if the rink is not being used and someone shows up for a use that doesn't fit that particular time frame, they should go right ahead and use the rink. If people come and their type of use fits the time schedule than the other people must give way to the other group. We anticipate that people will use the rink in a cooperative spirit so we won't have problems along those lines. We anticipate that in the future there will be youth and adult basketball leagues wanting to use this facility. We will assist as best we can to steer people in the right direction.

At this time Liaison Walsh left the meeting. We continued with our agenda and went onto item #2 under Old Business. We received a check from US Sports Institute based upon the number of children participating with the general sports camp and the tennis camp this past summer. We had a total of 48 kids at \$10.00 each so our contribution was \$480.00. This will be used to supplement our budget for next year.

Ed Burgio and Mike Morel continued to speak about the project at the skating rink. We are hoping that we won't have a problem with getting Keith from Superior Surfacing back at the rink to complete striping the surface for the basketball courts. He has done everything else at this time but the basketball striping. The committee was informed of the recent problem that occurred with arranging for payment for the work being done by Superior Surfacing. We are hopeful that in the end all parties will be satisfied with the work and payment.

The Director reported that she is meeting with Joanne Brown from the YMCA next week to go over the potential programs run by the Y at our site. If we can't get all the details taken care of for these programs in time to be advertised in the November newsletter, than we will at least be able to put a blurb about these programs in the newsletter directing people to contact the Recreation Office over the winter for details as well as checking our township sign and newspaper and website. Mike Morel reported that he has spoken with the Road Department personnel to ask them to complete the few items at the Hillside House that need to be addressed (shelving, doors, etc.) prior to opening it up for general use. He was told that these items will be addressed in the very near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Any business brought forward by members: At this time Chair Reczka asked if any members had additional business to be discussed. Jodi Halteman informed the members of her concern regarding the free standing large slide at the park. Jodi has doubts as to how safe it is. She has witnessed children falling off of it and feels that it should be replaced if we can find a slide that has deeper sides to help contain the children as they slide down. Discussion followed as to whether we had a history of complaints about the slide or a history of children falling that would prompt us to definitely make changes. The answer was no at this time. There are possibilities for other playground equipment that we could use to replace the slide if it should be determined that it was prudent to replace it. Our insurance does inspections each year and as far as their standards are concerned the slide is not in violation and meets the requirements for playground safety. It's something to think about when we are looking into new playground equipment in future years. That should be the number one item for upgrading. Jodi commented on how well the Road Department keeps the fall zones safe with the correct amount of pulverized tires. It could be a little better raked but all in all the fall zones do keep the children safe.

At this time Mike Morel brought up the subject of improving the parking at the park. He had submitted a plan for the lower lot, upper lot around the Hillside House and Barn. This plan includes actually painting lines to define each parking space. If we are able to follow his plan, we will be adding a great deal more spaces than we are struggling with now. The upper lot just entails painting the lines. The lower lot is more work. We will need to either pave or oil and chip the lot after removing the basketball court. We need a harder surface in order to paint the lines. Mike felt that the Road Department could do a good amount of this work. They just finished a similar job at the pole barn at the Goodale Road site. They had an asphalt company come in to complete the job but they were able to do most of it. We are not looking for a state of the art parking lot, but we will need to pave over grassy areas which will mean that we will most likely need to get our township engineer involved. We can make plans that add trees and shrubs to make it an attractive space. The Director will speak with the Road Department Supervisor to get his input on making this proposal a part of the 2009 budget request packet. The parking lot would fall under Buildings and Grounds and will need to be submitted by the Road Department Supervisor.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Nov. 9th - Andover FOP Lodge #177 - fundraiser - fee - \$100.00
2. Dec. 5th - Newton HS Field Hockey Banquet – Fee - \$100.00

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Mike Morel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. It was seconded by Dick Lagg. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Reczka, Chairperson

Jackie Huelbig, Secretary