

JULY 21, 2009
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Ed Burgio with the following members present: Mike Morel, Janet Bardello and Patti Clark. Dick Lagg, Helene Reczka, Jodi Halteman and Brian Robinson were absent. Township Committee Liaison, Tom Walsh was also present.

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

MINUTES: Minutes from March 31st, May 12th and June 9th will be available at the next meeting for approval and acceptance.

CORRESPONDENCE/ RECEIVED/SENT:

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| 1. New Jersey Herald | Sunshine Notice re change in meeting date |
| 2. Pricilla Stafford | Letter re winners in recent annual contests |
| 3. Tom Walsh, Rec Liaison | Memo re field usage by Newton HS Soccer |
| 4. Kurt Weaver, AD, NHS | Letter re decision on field usage by Soccer |
| 5. Andover Borough Clerk | Letter re possible donation for summer rec |
| 6. Andover Borough Clerk | Email re donation |
| 7. Farmstead G &CC | Thank you letter sent to all contributors to Ms. Andover Twp. |
| 8. Morel Bldrs. | Thank you for contribution to Little Ms./Mr. |
| 9. Playground Guide | Email from Amy Lamperti re including Hillside Park in "The Playground Guide, Best of Sussex and Warren Counties, NJ"
We got a 5 star rating!!! |

At this time we reviewed Correspondence Received and Sent. We reviewed the correspondence re NHS Soccer Program use of our fields. Committeeman Tom Walsh informed the members that he did receive a call from the new AD, Kurt Weaver and he did return his call and had to leave a message and to this date he has not heard from Mr. Weaver. We all agreed that we would have liked to give assistance but it just would not have worked.

We all commented on the donation received from Andover Borough towards our Summer Recreation Program. We will look for additional donations anytime we have a program where children from the Borough take part. Next we expressed our appreciation for all of the area merchants and businesses who very graciously donated money and gift certificates to the prize packages awarded to the 2009 contest winners.

We all were very happy to learn that our Hillside Park has been awarded a “5 Star” rating by the “Playground Guide, Best of Sussex and Warren Counties, NJ”. There will be a publication of this guide and we will make sure we get a copy or several copies. Liaison Walsh commented that he shared this information with the Township Committee at their recent meeting and everyone was impressed. We will also have this put on our website and even make mention of this on our township sign.

At this time, Mike Morel made a motion to file all correspondence. Janet Bardello seconded the motion, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report on Summer Recreation: We all reviewed the parental surveys and we were very pleased with everyone’s comments. The interactive reading movies were not well received so we will not have them in future years. We felt it was worth a try since they were supposed to be entertaining and educational! Guess the kids don’t want educational in the summer! Also, they might have been spoiled with the other entertainment – Mad Science, Zak the Magician and Rizzo’s Reptiles. It is hard to follow those things up with a reading movie. All in all, the parents were very appreciative of the program and were happy that it wasn’t cancelled. They even voiced their opinion that they would not have a problem with increasing fees next year if it meant that we could provide extra special programs. We will look into this when planning next year’s activities.
2. Update on Skating Rink Repair: We are perplexed and very concerned that Superior Surfacing has not kept in touch with us re the repair work at the rink. Ed Burgio reported that he thinks that at this time perhaps summer vacation schedules have interfered. That is not acceptable. Liaison Walsh has recommended that we contact township attorney, Fred Semrau with the details of this matter and have him send a letter regarding our displeasure with this follow up. Ed will contact Superior Surfacing this week and if we are not given a date that they will begin repairs, we will then hand the matter over to our attorney for action. We do know that the work on the Newton rink has not been done either and Superior did say they were trying to do both jobs at the same time. Still, we need to get a definite date to start the work.

At this time, Ed Burgio commented that he has heard from people at the park that we really do need to replace the kiddie swings at the park. They are original equipment so it would not be extravagant or very expensive to replace them at this time. The Director will look at catalogs and get a requisition done and given to the Finance Office ASAP.

NEW BUSINESS:

At this time, Liaison Walsh asked to address the members re the Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Committee's current efforts in pursuing an open space grant for the acquisition of a 108 acre parcel on Lawrence Road. This is the parcel that was going to be developed several years ago by Hovnanian for age restricted housing. That project fell through and now the township through the Open Space tax has a wonderful opportunity to acquire this land. Committeeman Walsh has asked the Recreation Committee to send a letter of support of this acquisition to Dan Freed, Chairman of our Open Space Committee so that he can present it to Sandi Urgo of the Land Conservancy so she can have a complete file on township support for this grant application.

The members present were extremely impressed and excited with the possibilities of use of this parcel by recreation. As we all know, athletic field availability is such a concern and is a constant problem on all levels of play and will only get worse as new sports have been introduced to the kids such as lacrosse. This could answer all of our needs for years to come. This parcel also runs into neighboring Lafayette Township and we understand that they will also pursue a grant to use that part of the parcel for recreational purposes. We are all very excited over this prospect. The Director will get this letter of support done tomorrow and give it to Ed Burgio, representative from the Recreation Committee to the Open Space Committee so that he can deliver it to Dan Freed at the next meeting.

1. Reviewing plans for Family Fun/Movie Day on 9/12: We agreed that we should rent the big screen and sound system for our movie night. It will make a more professional presentation. We would look to begin this at 4 pm and have live music and some other activities for kids and of course hamburgers and hot dogs and other snack type of food. Then the movie would begin around 8 pm. We are not looking to present a town day type of celebration, just something on a smaller scale that would bring residents together for a few hours of family fun. We wouldn't have even been able to plan this except that we had a cancellation of a rental date at the barn on Sept. 12th so we thought we should take advantage. The only problem is that if we have to postpone due to inclement weather the only available date would be the next day which is a Sunday and would not be great due to it being a school night. After further discussion, the members present decided to go forward with this plan and hopefully the weather will cooperate and we won't have to worry about a rain date.

As far as the grilling is concerned, the Director will check to see if the Fire Department wants to participate by handling that. They did seem anxious to help with the food stand when planning Andover Township Day. We can also contact the youth organizations both scouts and sports to see if they would be interested in participating in some way. We are looking for a theme along the lines of picnic in the park with music and movie. Perhaps a 3 D movie would be fun. The Director will check with Blockbuster. We will fine tune this at our next meeting in August.

2. Review plans for Halloween Party on 10/31: We briefly discussed a plan to hold a Halloween Party for the children since Halloween falls on a Saturday this year. We used to hold a Halloween Party every year but interest fell off after a while. We felt that we could plan for an afternoon time and after our party the kids could then continue on with their trick or treating. We could begin at 1 pm and should only take about a couple of hours and we could have trophies for their costumes for different age groups and categories and then give them trick or treat bags to use that can be funded through the Clean Communities fund. We will fine tune this activity at our future meetings.
3. Any discussions brought before the Committee by members present: The Director informed the members that the Sussex County YMCA is interested in running programs again at the Hillside House beginning on September 9th for 8 weeks on Wednesday mornings. The representative from the Y would like to attend a Senior Citizen's meeting to let them know about the program geared for seniors. The Director is trying to arrange this through Mayor Smith.

Also, Chuck Dillard called once again to arrange for fall baseball at Hillside Park. He states that he has a team made up of young men, 15-18 years of age from Andover, Green, Newton and Kittatinny. Liaison Walsh recommended that we ask for a copy of the roster to make sure that the kids from Andover make up a majority of the members. We cannot be approving use of our fields unless Andover kids are the main members of these teams. They need the field twice a week for games from August 17th to October in the evening. The Director will look into this. We also talked about asking the athletic programs that use our fields to make an annual donation of perhaps \$150.00 that would be used to keep a fund available for costs to cover the maintenance of our fields. Of course if the groups want to give more than \$150.00 that would absolutely be appreciated.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Aug. 4th – Project Self-Sufficiency – Picnic Only – No fee

The next Recreation Committee meeting is August 11, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Mike Morel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. It was seconded by Janet Bardello. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Burgio, Chairman

Jackie Huelbig, Secretary