

AUGUST 10, 2010
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chair Ed Burgio with the following members present: Mike Morel, Janet Bardello and Brian Robinson. Jodi Halteman was absent. Co-liaisons, Mayor Walsh and Deputy Mayor Phoebus were also in attendance

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

MINUTES: The minutes from Feb. 9th, March 9th, March 23rd, April 13th and June 8th will be on the agenda at the next meeting for approval and acceptance.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: At this time Deputy Mayor Phoebus asked to speak as a township resident and not in her official capacity. Ms. Phoebus thanked the Director for the effort put forth while performing her duties as Recreation Director and Secretary for the Recreation Committee. Ms. Phoebus urged the Director not be discouraged by remarks made regarding job performance or necessity of job positions that might take place by members of the public. Unfortunately people make comments without fully understanding the actual job duties and parameters that the township employees work under or the amount of time and effort that goes into performing job duties. The Director thanked Deputy Mayor Phoebus for her kind words. Mayor Walsh interjected that residents have every right to question how their tax dollars are spent but it is frustrating when they only look at the municipal government and do not address the local school budget or the county budget. He has urged disgruntled residents to check into those areas also.

At this time Mayor Walsh asked for a discussion with the members regarding how we might have to start requiring fees from teams and organizations who use our athletic fields if the teams are not represented in the majority by Andover Township players. We had a situation during the last couple of weeks of a soccer camp run by Newton High School coaches that historically has taken place at the Goodale Road soccer field. The person running the camp is charging the kids \$40.00 to participate. Originally the fee was to cover insurance for the camp but it was learned that the Newton Board of Ed was offering the insurance coverage. When it was suggested that since the insurance was being provided the camp would then be free, the camp officials said they needed to fee to offset other expenses.

After much discussion, in the end, when the camp officials were told that they would need to allow Andover Township residents to attend the camp free of charge and that they would have to give a payment to the township based upon a \$10.00 per player who is not an Andover Township resident to cover field maintenance since fees were being collected for this camp, the officials decided to move the location of the camp to Andover Borough.

This situation has caused much thought on behalf of the township as to when and how we should handle all of the organizations and teams that use our field as it refers to non-residents. The tax payers have supported the establishment and continued maintenance of all of our athletic fields and it isn't fair that we allow all of these other teams and organizations that include players from other towns to constantly use our fields without them sharing in the expense of field maintenance.

We have had organizations contribute money to go toward field maintenance. Highland Soccer usually gives a donation of around \$250.00 or more. The idea of asking for a set amount from each organization using the fields that will go into a line item to be used for field maintenance seems like a good idea. We need to figure out exactly what organizations request field use and then figure how much would seem appropriate for an amount of donation. We just need to be consistent with our policy.

It was decided that we need to have a meeting with representatives of all of the organizations requesting use of our fields to go over their needs and expectations and we can then explain to them what we will be expecting from them in order for their continued use. We could use a fee schedule to cover camps and then we have to discuss what would be appropriate for organizations using the fields for their entire season. It might require the organizations to run fund raisers but that is how it is done in other towns. The Director was asked to contact each organization to send a representative to come to a meeting to take place just prior to our regular meeting on September 14th at 7:00 pm.

We discussed the Charity Softball Tournament that is planned for Sunday, September 26th at Hillside Park. We are hopeful that we will get around 8 teams and the entrance fees will be given back as donations to the charities listed for each team as follows: 1st place team gets 70%; 2nd place team gets 20% and the 3rd place team gets 10%. The Lakeland Emergency Squad will handle food for the tournament. If people want to have beer they can bring it and it must be enjoyed in the barn. That way it is a BYOB and no one is responsible. Committeeman Mike Lensak is spearheading this tournament along with Mayor Walsh and we are all hopeful that it is a success.

At this time, we closed the meeting to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT & RECEIVED:

1. Darren Dickinson/Golden & Moran Eng. Email and dock details re Lake Iliff Access

We discussed the possibility of some type of dock or boardwalk for the Lake Iliff Access. We need to keep the cost down and the disturbance to the area needs to be the least possible. We talked making the site more of a natural, wildlife area that we could possibly put signage up explaining different habitats, and types of trees, etc. We came to the conclusion that a dock will not work.

At this time Ed Burgio explained to the members that we have a candidate for Eagle Scout that has been looking to do a project. Nick Chirello is working in the park at this time doing brick pavers under the benches and repairing and refurbishing the benches and fencing. He is making use of the left over brick pavers from a prior project. The boy needs help with digging the holes but then that means our DPW will be involved on a level that is usually not what the Eagle Scout project requires. We are appreciative of their efforts but if our DPW winds up expending time, labor and funds we could actually do the projects ourselves which winds up as a negative for both the township and the scouts.

After much discussion it was decided that a project that would work for both the scouts and the township would be making a couple of picnic tables, bat houses, bird houses and sign posts to be used at the Lake Iliff Access. This project would be less intensive whereby the scout would not be looking for assistance from the DPW. Then we would have what is appropriate at that site and the scout would have a completed project for his award. We will keep this idea in mind and pass it along to the first scout calling for a suggested project.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion re summer program (copies of parental surveys included in packet) – We all enjoyed reading the parental surveys. They were extremely positive. One recommendation was to have each child be assigned to a particular counselor so they could become familiar with that person and no child will fall between the cracks when needing attention. Recreation member and Arts and Crafts Director for the summer program, Janet Bardello felt that was a doable idea and will look to implement that next summer. We did a great job with spending the least amount of money possible. We would really appreciate it if the Safety Town schedule went back to their old schedule so we would not have a conflict. Maybe we can work around their dates.

2. Discussion on remaining activities: The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th. Then we have the softball tournament on Sunday, September 26th. We can fine tune the participation by the Recreation Committee at the next meeting. We will hold the Senior Luncheon on Sunday, October 17th at 1 pm. We then will hold a Halloween Costume Party for the children on Sunday, October 31st. Then we will finish the year with the Teen Dance on Friday, November 19th; Holiday Bus Trip on Saturday, December 4th, Children's Holiday Party on Sunday, December 5th. We discussed whether we should hold the Adult Holiday Party this year. We do have a date at the Hillside Park Hall open for it on Friday, December 10th. We will address this at another time to make sure we are all supportive of this activity.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Softball Tournament – Discussed under Open to the Public.

2. Any discussions brought before the Committee by members present – At this time Deputy Mayor Phoebus mentioned that there was some confusion as to exactly what trail project is in the works in the township. She reported that at last evening's Township Committee meeting there was paperwork being discussed regarding the trail and due to the fact that it wasn't entirely clear as to what type of trail was being referenced, the Township Committee tabled a vote on a resolution.

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Much discussion followed and it was determined that there is only one trail in the works which will be for walking, hiking and biking and the length of the trail development will be dependent upon the funding received through grants that have been applied for. All of the grants applied for are for the same trail. We are not looking to develop more than one trail. The confusion might be fueled by the fact that we have applied for more than one grant for the same trail - including a DOT and a DEP grant.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Aug. 19th & 20th - Teets (employee) – Wedding – Fee - \$400.00 total
2. Aug. 18th - Kiddie Academy – Picnic/Park Only – No fee
3. Aug. 29th - Hammond – 1st Birthday Party – Fee - \$150.00 – Hillside House
4. Sept. 11th - Klenke (member of Board of Health) – Reunion – Fee - \$200.00
5. Sept. 12th - McSherry (employee) – Birthday Party – Fee - \$300.00
6. Sept. 18th - Baadshaug – Private Party – Fee - \$400.00
7. Oct. 2nd - Partnership for Social Services – Dinner Dance – Fee - \$450.00
8. Oct. 8th & 9th - Gramcko – Wedding – Fee - \$600.00 total
9. Oct. 22nd - Sussex Cty PBA #138 – Beefsteak fund raiser – Fee \$450.00
10. Oct. 29th - Sussex Cty Republican Com. – Beefsteak fund raiser – Fee - \$450.00

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Mike Morel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm. It was seconded by Brian Robinson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Burgio, Chair

Jackie Huelbig, Secretary