

**REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES  
EAST AMWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
January 17, 2019; EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING,  
1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

**CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

The Reorganization meeting of the East Amwell Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairperson Alison Castellano who read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is an Re-Organization Meeting of the East Amwell Parks and Recreation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 20, 2018 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the municipal bulletin board on December 8, 2018.

**2019 ATTENDANCE** (X = present; E = excused; A = absent)

<b>Parks and Recreation Committee Member (term expires)</b>	<b>1/17/19</b>	<b>2/21/19</b>	<b>3/21/19</b>	<b>4/18/19</b>	<b>5/16/19</b>	<b>6/20/19</b>	<b>7/18/19</b>	<b>8/15/19</b>	<b>9/19/19</b>	<b>10/17/19</b>	<b>11/21/19</b>	<b>12/19/19</b>
<b>Alison Castellano (12/31/21)</b>	X											
<b>Mark Gunn (12/31/20)</b>	X											
<b>Michael Atzert (12/31/21)</b>	X											
<b>Pete Fick (12/31/20)</b>	X											
<b>Erica Johanson (12/31/20)</b>	X*											
<b>Chris Kellogg (proposed 12/31/19)</b>	A											
<b>Thyra Zengel (proposed 12/31/19)</b>	X											
<b>Michele Doherty (12/31/20)</b>	A											
<b>Vacant</b>												
<b>Jenna Castellano (youth member)</b>	A											
<b>Peter Miller</b>	A											

*Others present: Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett, \* indicates virtual participation*

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No members of the Public were present.

**ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH’S MEETING MINUTES: December 18, 2018** – A motion was made by P. Fick to approve the minutes that was second by Alison and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

There was discussion regarding follow up items from December 2018 meeting including C. Kellogg receipts to be reimbursed, items the Committee agreed to purchase and which A. Castellano sent to R. Georgett. These purchases will be allocated against 2018 budget. There was further discussion regarding utilization of the budget to ensure we don’t lose funds in 2019. A. Castellano also said there will be two (2) people reimbursed from excess funds collected during the New York City bus trip, per the Committee’s agreement in December.

A Castellano said the last piece of the Tree Lighting mural is not missing and is in the basement. She then asked P. Fick if he has contacted Gina Scialla regarding updating the Holiday song book now rather than waiting because she is very busy during the holidays. P. Fick said he will do this. R. Georgett will send the song book to P. Fick and Gina. A. Castellano asked if R. Georgett had spoken with M. Pasqua about how to handle excess funds for future trips, and R. Georgett said she needs to follow up. A. Castellano said the last item for follow up is the gaga court for the park and this will be discussed under the FOSPC report agenda item. There was discussion that R. Wolfe, Mayor, was behind the plan for multi-use courts to replace existing Tennis Courts and A. Castellano will discuss funding with him.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND READING OF THE RESOLUTION:**

R. Georgett called for nominations for Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee. **E. Johanson nominated A. Castellano and this nomination was seconded by M Gunn. R. Georgett hearing no other nominations, called for a vote. All members voted unanimously in favor of A. Castellano as Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee with no objections or abstentions.**

R. Georgett called for nominations for Vice Chairperson. **E. Johanson nominated P. Fick and this was seconded by M. Atzert. R. Georgett hearing no other nominations, called for a vote. All members voted unanimously in favor of P. Fick as Vice Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee with no objections or abstentions.**

R. Georgett read the 2019 Meeting Resolution:

**RESOLUTION 01-19**

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that during 2019, The Parks and Recreation Committee will hold regularly scheduled meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

All regular meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, in the Small Meeting Room of the East Amwell Township Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all items to be considered for the agenda shall be presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee Secretary no later than one week prior to the scheduled meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE: \_\_\_\_\_ 2019

By the Order of the Parks and Recreation Committee:

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Rosemary Georgett, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

M. Atzert made a motion to approve the 2019 meeting resolution that was seconded by P. Fick. All members were in favor of approving the resolution with no objections or abstentions.

**PRESENTATION OF UPDATED PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET:** 2019 budget is not yet finalized but the Township Committee has approved the requested amount, which is no change from 2018. This will be presented at the next meeting.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** VII. F. T. Zengel added Basketball under Reports.

**REPORTS:**

**A. South Count Soccer League (SCSL)** – A. Castellano said she will invite Jamie Quinn to come to the February meeting and provide us with an update. Jamie is now the President and Howard is gone. A. Castellano continued that Jamie should come to Parks and Recreation meetings regularly and provide updates. T. Zengel suggested twice a year when they form the league early in the New Year (Feb/March) and again after the summer season but before preparations for the fall season. July is best because they do not meet in August. R. Georgett will send a letter to Jamie Quinn requesting her attendance at the Parks and Recreation March and July meetings, and include that the Committee would like an update, a review of their plans, discussion regarding questions and concerns, and where SCSL needs support from the Committee.

**B. Clawson Park** – M. Gunn said he is visiting the park regularly and it seems that the issue with dog waste has been resolved. He continued that the cracks in the tennis courts are back, and he has pictures. The surfacing work that was done didn't prevent the cracks from coming back and the entire court needs to be redone. M. Gunn said he and E. Johanson met with their contacts who oversee the Tennis Courts in Trenton the Committee has previously discussed and learned that Trenton is able to get NJ Tennis Association grants because they have children's programs with full time staff present. He continued that they get sponsors who make contributions and then plaques of recognition for these contributions are put around the tennis courts. The organization that built and maintains the Trenton tennis courts is called Kurt's Courts and they are located in PA.

M. Gunn continued that we need a realistic estimate for what new courts will cost, and he will get a quote from them for the tennis courts as well as multi-use courts. M. Gunn said if we want a multi-use court, it will be more complex and expensive. A. Castellano said we might need to go out for bid if it's a multi-use court.

M. Gunn said unless we are going to consider establishing children's programs, the grant funds won't be available. E. Johanson said we could check into Home Depot or Lowes for donations, and A. Castellano said for them to donate the work needs to be done by volunteers which doesn't work for this project. P. Fick said Mayor Wolfe's direction is to go with multi-use courts, not just tennis. M. Atzert said multi-use courts would include tennis, pickle ball, etc. He continued that after the winter someone will need to assess the tennis courts for safety, and M. Gunn said that currently the cracks are not so large as to be dangerous but he will reassess in the Spring.

- C. Township Committee** – P. Miller was not present and did not attend any meetings in 2018.
- D. FOSPC** – P. Fick said a 10 year plan has been requested from Parks and Recreation as input for the East Amwell Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan. He continued that the Committee already provided input regarding making the tennis courts into new multi-use courts and to improve walking trails. P Fick said we should identify walking trails in the Township. There was discussion regarding how the Open Space funds are acquired once the Township has received them, who in the Township has oversights regarding spending. A. Castellano confirmed that the Township Committee has oversight regarding spending of these funds, and T. Zengel said that if we are part of the plan it will increase our chances to get funds.

It was agreed that Parks and Recreation did not receive a portion of the funding the past because we did not request it and did not have specific plans in the East Amwell Open Space Plan. M. Atzert said we should include our ideas and plans, and if needed roll funds over from one year to another to cover the multi-use courts expense.

A Castellano said we discussed a gaga court for Clawson Park, and could get a wooden one that matches the area and can be removed. T. Zengel agreed that the kids love them and they're easy to set up and use. A. Castellano said we could also go to Home Depot and ask for a donation if we have volunteers to build it. This will be added to the East Amwell Open Space Plan, although we may be able to take care of it separately through a donation.

A Castellano asked E. Johanson about trails and she said they are private and you need to be a member to use them because they are on private land. P. Fick said even if we are not responsible for caring for them, having a map of walking trails would be helpful.

- E. Senior Citizens** - A. Castellano said she has no update, and her primary contact with the group has been unwell. A. Castellano said they meet regularly at the Elks and also have events. She will reach out to Bob Rowe to see if he'll come to Parks and Recreation meetings a few times a years, but at least once a year. There was discussion regarding the fact that they receive \$1,000 of township funds and should be reporting back how it's being used. M. Atzert said we should have them come in March.
- F. Basketball** – T. Zengel said Jeremy Frye has the program back running two nights a week on Tuesday and Thursday for adult basketball at 7. T. Zengel will provide Jeremy's contact information to A. Castellano, and said between 6 and 16 people have been coming. She continued that they don't have it on nights when there are Board of Education meets, and A. Castellano said we can add the information and schedule to our township website calendar. A. Castellano said we can also advertise this to help increase attendance.

#### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Oaths of Office Update** – R. Georgett commented that all Oaths of Office except C. Kellogg have been received, and C. DeCandia declined. R. Georgett will update membership on the website including two vacancies. P. Fick asked if P. Miller was still

our township liaison because he has not attended a meeting in over a year. M. Atzert said that we need Township guidance and a liaison advocate is important for the items being put forward such as the multi-use tennis courts. There was further discussion and agreement that Rick Wolfe has been supportive and will support and advocate for Parks and Recreation Committee.

**B. 2019 Events & Trips –**

1. Events and Trips Planning Template - R. Georgett said that the template was prepared as a tool to help organize events and capture best practices from year to year but it is work in process. A. Castellano said we should use it for events to see if it will be effective, and make changes as needed. A. Castellano asked T. Zengel to complete it retroactively for the 2018 Tree Lighting, so we have the template for 2019. M. Atzert said he will prepare it for the upcoming Egg Hunt. A. Castellano will prepare it for the bus trip and Friday Nights in the park. Everyone will provide feedback to improve the template, and once it's a set format we can put it on the Website for easy access.
2. 2019 Events and Trips – A. Castellano said she asked for feedback and ideas from those who went on the NYC Bus Trip and had forgotten to bring the list but will bring it to the next meeting. She continued that everyone loved it and were open to other trip ideas. It was agreed that the Christmas 2019 trip would be to Longwood Gardens, and other upcoming items are the Color Run/Green Fest on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A. Castellano said we need someone to be lead for Color Run. E. Johanson and M. Gunn said they will lead the Color Run table.

M. Atzert said the Egg Hunt will be April 13, 2019 and that he and C. Kellogg will lead it. The rain/snow date is April 20, 2019. A. Castellano said we can look at the Winery event in March and she will coordinate this with M. Doherty. R. Georgett said we were looking at the Winery in May, and M. Atzert said the Color Run/Green Fest and Mother's Day weekends will be busy so maybe best to not have another trip/event in May so we have the Winery event to March or the summer. E. Johanson said the New York Botanical Gardens has a great Blues & Beer event each year, it was September in 2018 and she'll find out when this is for 2019. There was discussion that this would be a good event, and R. Georgett volunteered to lead it.

R. Georgett read other events on the tentative 2019 schedule and T. Zengel said having a community yard sale is fairly easy to run and mentioned some details. A. Castellano said anyone who wants to research this, can report at our next meeting. R Georgett will make a list of events and dates to review at the February meeting. We can then finalize the 2019 events/trips plan and assign volunteers to lead them.

**PRESENTATION OF INVOICES:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Castellano said T. Stahl forwarded an email from someone with a band interested in playing/performing at Clawson Park/Clawson House. She feels the style of music would be better at a Clawson House event than Friday night in the park. A. Castellano will discuss with Jim about opportunities to pair them up with something going on at the

museum. She continued that we do not want to discourage those interested in participating in community events.

**NEW/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**A. VIP Articles** - R. Georgett will prepare a save the date for Egg Hunt including a rain date of April 20<sup>th</sup> and encourage people to check the website. T. Zengel will provide Basketball dates and a reminder. If we have date for Winery, that will be included as well.

**B. Other** - A. Castellano said for next month we should add an agenda item to discuss establishing Clawson Park as a 501.C.3 stand-alone non-profit where we could raise funds to use for events. T. Zengel asked if that would affect our committee budget, and A. Castellano said no only the park would be non-profit, not the Parks and Recreation Committee. M. Gunn and M. Atzert asked about governance and oversight, and said that it is like starting a business, could be great and a lot of work.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – None present.

**OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE** – No items were raised

**AJOURNMENT** - A motion was made by M. Gunn and seconded by M. Atzert to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M. and carried unanimously.

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Rosemary Georgett, Park and Recreation Coordinator