

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL RECREATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.**

EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairperson Alison Castellano who read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is a regular Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Recreation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 21, 2017 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was forwarded on March 6, 2018 to the Township Clerk’s Office, posted on the Township bulletin board and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat.

2018 ATTENDANCE

Recreation Committee Member (term expires)	1/18/18	2/15/18	3/15/18	4/19/18	5/17/18	6/21/18	7/19/18	8/16/18	9/20/18	10/18/18	11/15/18	12/20/18
Alison Castellano	X	X	X									
Mark Gunn	X	X										
Michael Atzert		X	X									
Pete Fick	X		X									
Erica Johanson	X		X									
Chris Kellogg		X										
Thyra Zengel	7:45		7:40									
Sandra Gonzalez												
Cassie DeCandia	X		X									
Peter Miller		X										

Others present: Secretary, Rosemary Georgett

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jaime Quinn and Howard Young from SCSL present for discussion on agenda South County Soccer.

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES – February 15, 2018

A motion was made by M. Atzert, seconded by T. Zengel to approve the February 15, 2018 meeting minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved. One abstention from E. Johanson.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PRESENTATION OF INVOICES

None

PRESENTATION OF UPDATED RECREATION BUDGET

Secretary R. Georgett did not have a copy of the current temporary budget for review and will ensure that we have one for each meeting. P Fick believed it was similar to last year and not yet fully approved.

REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

South County Soccer – J. Quinn and H. Young did report at the end of last year, and had soil samples taken. H. Young stated the soil sample results showed substantial deficiencies in both fields, and we need to get it corrected if we want grass in the fields. It would be 2 step process with no one permitted on grounds for 24 hours, and schedule soon maybe on Saturday. After this, there is regular maintenance through the year and field usage will be rotated to free them up for maintenance. H. Young further stated this field maintenance is expensive with soil treatment \$3700 for all fields, and additional \$4800 for the upper field and \$1500 for lower field. Total of approximately \$9,000 is a substantial amount to fund as a club and further discussion is needed. There is another company (Alexander) that would be less expensive. The proposed maintenance company also does Clover Hill Park, and H. Young suggested we have some committee members go to Clover Hill Park to assess their work. A. Castellano and M Atzert agreed.

H. Young stated that SCSL has taken on maintenance of the lights and has a quote to replace them with LEDs. Proposal to replace lights this year is \$25,000 and not in the township budget. The SCSL club would look to make a contribution to this cost, and wants to understand that with continued investment SCSL would continue to receive priority for use of field. A. Castellano stated this needs to be discussed with Township Committee, and with an existing draft Township budget there is not support for full replacement at this amount. A. Castellano stated that the number of children has dropped, and is now around 125. J Quinn stated we don't need lights in Spring but do in the fall (Oct – Nov). This should be weighted into the possible investment. A. Castellano stated that the Township Committee is more inclined to do repairs with approximate cost of approximately \$6,000. P Fick reiterated that the Township is responsible for the lights, and stated it is important to have Peter Miller present at these meetings to have discussions regarding topic such as this.

A. Castellano recommended SCSL should attend the next Township Meeting. Recreation meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month. H. Young asked what this committee thinks is the right decision on lights, replace or repair. M. Atzert stated LED would be good but with lights only used a few months, it's a big cost. A. Castellano stated we should compare current cost to run lights, with savings we'd see from LED lights, and the overall impact to the annual budget before making any decisions. P Fick further recommended that we put this in writing and H. Young speak with Peter Miller. A Castellano provided Peter's mobile number and email. H. Young will also connect with Jason Silverthorn regarding the LED estimate and A Castellano provide contact information for him as well. A. Castellano will also speak with Peter Miller regarding the lights. Once we have the details, we need to come to a conclusion regarding the lights.

P. Fick stated there is a need for SCSL to provide reports regularly to the Recreation Committee, and the committee has had a hard time reaching someone from SCSL in the past. H. Young and J. Quinn stated their availability to come to meetings and take calls/emails.

H. Young stated that there is an agreement in place is that the Township is responsible for lights, and SCSL are responsible for fields. A. Castellano had a document regarding roles and responsibilities dated November 2017, and represented the most current agreement.

J Quinn stated that SCSL is gathering information from soccer coaches regarding scheduling needs for 2018 season. There should not be a conflict with softball because they are flexible days of usage. Township received an outside request via email for usage of a softball field from Nick Jachim from the Hunterdon County Church League (Mon & Thurs starting April 9th). T. Zengel stated that if the school field is available, they may be able to use it and she will follow up. Saturday and Sunday the school field

is in use for games and practice. Alternatively thinks they could use T2 which would not impact SCSL at all. T3 would be too small for adult use. A. Castellano is awaiting email response from N. Jachim for further information from him as to times and duration required.

Chris Thompson may be requesting ball field usage for FRB. H. Young will contact Chris to discuss and was provided Chris's phone & email. M. Atzert suggested A. Castellano run this past Chris Kellogg as well, who is also on the board.

J. Quinn stated that the port-a-potty at the upper field has fallen over in the storm and she will ensure the company rectify that. T. Zengel pointed out they need to be aware of the ground when driving back there, last year around this time they drove a truck back there when the ground was soft and it left huge ruts.

J. Quinn and H. Young were excused.

Baseball – No report available.

Clawson Park – A. Castellano stated there has been discussion at the Township Committee meeting to expand responsibilities of Recreation Committee to be parks & recreation combined. The Clawson Park advisory committee was not reappointed at the January reorganization meeting, in lieu of the creation of a Village Committee. M. Atzert stated that in the meantime, he has observed that the animal waste containers are over flowing. Now that the Clawson Park Advisory Committee is not in operation we think this would now become DPW responsibility when emptying garbage/recycling cans at the park. Members discussed what a change to parks & recreation means. Everyone seems to think it's a good idea and makes sense. A. Castellano stated that Township will make a decision on the merger.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tennis/Court Pickle Ball - A. Castellano wants to revisit tennis court discussion, and asked do we need to repair/can we replace it? Issue is that it wasn't made properly & maintained. P. Fick stated he's not sure why funds for this can't come from open space fund because it is open space and recreation. M Atzert stated that last year we were also told repair of the tennis courts could be put to a bond. We need decision, to do the repair/replacement and remove padlock which could be temptation to children. E. Johanson stated she will check with friends in Trenton who live near a beautiful tennis court & find out how they are managing it. This may provide some ideas for us. A. Castellano stated she will speak with Peter Miller & Rick Wolfe to revisit why funds can't come out of open space for this.

Monthly VIP Article - A. Castellano suggested she and R. Georgett prepare a summary of upcoming activities for next VIP issue before March 23rd.

Bingo – A. Castellano stated this is redundant to what's held at school and has low attendance. Instead should we have board game night and need location options with appropriate capacity & parking. A. Castellano asked could we having a game night in the Kirkpatrick church, and M. Atzert stated there is a busy schedule for Spring after the Egg Hunt. M. Atzert recommended we wait to do this in the fall and there was general agreement. R. Georgett will add to the August agenda for discussion at that time.

Spring Newsletter - A. Castellano stated it is done, and included Camp for Kids & Egg Hunt.

Egg Hunt - A. Castellano said she'll follow up with Chris about skins (8 for 4 double sided stands) which are put up at Kirkpatrick Church, Township office and the school. Boy scouts usually help pick up sticks, put eggs out, etc. Candy was ordered but wasn't delivered as of today. A. Castellano will follow up with Pam. Girls Scouts will stuff eggs, and committee members invited to come help – Sunday at 1 PM. Kirkpatrick Church. All prizes, chocolate bunnies, golden tickets, have been purchased/are ready. Arrive at 9:00am for set up on Saturday March 24th. Gather items from township basement needed for the event including bins for food donations. M. Atzert will make signs for food donation. K. Hendrix will be the Easter bunny. Fliers were distributed to school families, and A. Castellano will provide a copy to P. Fick for further distribution around town. C. DeCandia shared an idea to ask questions of kids about what they like best, and will do this to enhance the experience of the children.

Bricks for Kids – A. Castellano stated that because school is now in session for last 2 days of spring break, this program will be only 3 days - Mon, Tues, Wed. Not too many are signed up yet but Jim Brown will pro-rate the cost. Fliers were distributed at school and its on the PTO website. T. Zengel stated the 6th grade didn't get them, and will follow up to ensure all grade levels received the flier.

Friday Nights in the Park – A. Castellano stated that we have July 20th set for Friday Nights at the Park, with the same activities as last year. In August – what do we want to do anything beyond Music & Food Trucks? A. Castellano suggested we keep to activities that run themselves. August 17th date was proposed. R. Georgett will confirm availability.

Circle Line- T. Zengel referenced West Amwell has long list of events for the year, some are specific for seniors. A. Castellano asked if we should take this off the list, there is no one enthusiastic about organizing it, and it was agreed to remove from the list. Can possibly have as senior event in the future.

School/PTO – A. Castellano showed a picture of the rocks project from the school and suggested we do something like this at Clawson Park. It would add color, look great, be fun, etc. It was agreed we'll have rock painting event in the Park – maybe as part of the “Friday Nights at the Park”. The rocks could be put around the gazebo or path to add color.

Adult Basketball - T. Zengel stated there are up to 16 people for basketball, men & women and some inquiries from VIP entry under our committee article. The group felt that once word gets around, more people will be interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Rock Painting - see discussion under School/PTO old business. The committee will consider doing this in July.

Volleyball - A. Castellano suggested we add volleyball for older kids & adults together on another night at the school as well as make it happen this year in the park in the summer months. There was general agreement and this will be discussed further.

Seniors Program - A. Castellano stated that senior funding has been cut in half this year because many of the seniors attending are actually not East Amwell Township residents. Raritan had many seniors coming & declined to contribute. Seniors are currently meeting in Flemington, where there is a cost and a longer drive. A. Castellano identified some location options: Kirkpatrick Church has stairs & so not good. M. Atzert suggested the Township Meeting room, and P Fick suggested that A. Castellano will speak with Terri Stahl who has background, and then go from there. A. Castellano had inquired with Living Waters Church and is waiting to hear a reply. A. Castellano plans to attend a senior meeting to learn more about

what they do/need funding for and to see how we can potentially assist them and will report back at next meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee – P. Fick – nothing to report.

P. Fick reiterated we have two purposes for open space funds – lights for school & tennis courts. There was discussion about background on lights, and responsibilities for costs. No decision or action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email request for ball field usage from Nick Jachim from Hunterdon County Church League as a home ground for his softball team (discussed with SCSL – Reports and Unfinished Business).

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by M. Atzert seconded by T. Zengel to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 9:02 PM.

Rosemary Georgett, Secretary