

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
EAST AMWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
August 16, 2018; 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 7:30 PM by Chairperson Alison Castellano who read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is an Ordinary Meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 21, 2017 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 August 7, 2018.

**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	X	X	X	X	X				
Mark Gunn	X	X	A	X	X	A	X	E				
Michael Atzert	A	X	X	X	A	7:22	X	X				
Pete Fick	X	A	X	X	X	7:17	X	X				
Erica Johanson	X	A	X*	X*	X*	X*	A	X				
Chris Kellogg	A	X	A	A	A	7:18	X	7:59				
Thyra Zengel	7:45	A	7:40	A	A	A	X	E				
Sandra Gonzalez	A	A	A	A	X	E	X	E				
Michele Doherty	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	E				
Cassie DeCandia	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Jenna Castellano (youth member)	A	A	A	X	X	A	A	A				
Peter Miller	A	X	A	A	A	A	A	A				

*Others present: Recreation Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett*

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES: July 19, 2018** – A motion was made by P. Fick to approve the minutes with minor edit that second by M. Atzert and carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF UPDATED RECREATION BUDGET:**

A Castellano said that we are on track for spending this year and have consolidate cost for summer activities. She also noted a correction that the Bubble Guy for Friday Nights in the Park cost is \$250. P. Fick said that it's good that we are spending the budget and in good shape.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

- VII. A. 2) SCSL application for week of 8/13/18
- VII. D. 3) Clawson Park Memorial Area
- X. F) Old York Cellars Night and G) Color Run Presence

**REPORTS:**

**A. South Count Soccer League (SCSL)** – A. Castellano said she reached out to Howard Young, and he had no update. R. Georgett said a request had been submitted late for use of the municipal fields and it interfered with DPW activities. She has reminded SCSL to please submit requests in advance and one is in process for the 2018/2019 season. A motion was made by M. Atzert to approve the request for use of the municipal fields on 8/13/18 that second by P. Fick and carried unanimously.

**B. Baseball** – No update

**C. Adult Basketball** – No update

**D. Clawson Park** –

**1. Pickle Ball/Tennis Courts** – A. Castellano said that she and M. Gunn met with Jason Silverthorn about the tennis courts, and Jason was not supportive of paying to put lines put on the courts at this time. She continued that Jason felt spending a lot of money for lines now when we may do major work next year, didn't make sense. A. Castellano confirmed that lines will not be done at this time.

**a. NJ Tennis Association** - E. Johanson said that she has a friend who obtained a grant to fund two tennis courts in her neighborhood, and will help us with the process. E. Johanson is reaching out to her friend and will report back.

**2. Ongoing Maintenance Procedure** –

**a. Pet Waste Containers:** A. Castellano said purchase of the containers was approved by the committee, and R. Georgett has followed up regarding status. Jason Silverthorn wants to purchase them through GameTime, the provider of our playground equipment, and it would be a higher cost than approved by this Committee and therefore, the added cost may require approval.

A Castellano said that Jason has the purchase in process but is considering installing the posts without the collection bins. C. DeCandia asked who will collect the waste bags from the containers if they are installed. A. Castellano said DPW. There was some discussion regarding installing the containers with or without the collection bins, and the DPW process for collection of dog waste bags. M. Atzert asked why don't we just get posts from Home Depot, if the waste bins won't be on the posts? There was discussion regarding this question and agreement that we needed to move forward with initial installation of the pet waste containers, and then see whether it's working. A. Castellano asked R. Georgett to ensure any bins purchased have a lid on them.

**b. Memorial at the Park:** A. Castellano said that she M. Gunn, and Jason Silverthorn had met regarding the location for the Memorial Bench to be placed in Clawson Park. She continued that M. Gunn is going to speak with Sweet Valley to design the space for us.

**E. The Grange** – No update

**F. Township Committee** – No update. There was discussion that P. Miller should attend meetings.

**G. New Website** – A. Castellano will have an update in September.

**H. FOSPC** – No update.

**I. Senior Citizens** – No update. A. Castellano said that she is very busy and can't attend until October. She invited others to go and connect the seniors at a meeting. C. DeCandia asked when they meet and A. Castellano explained the purpose of attending is to support them, understand how Township funds are being spent, and see what kind of events they are planning.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**PRESENTATION OF INVOICES:** All were approved as per the budget where items are contained, and motions for spending from the July meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**NEW/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**A. Friday Nights In The Park** – A. Castellano said that we're set except for the weather, and the plan is to decide whether to cancel by Noon so that we can notify vendors and entertainers. She continued that having to cancel is not good for anyone, and reviewed the potential costs. A. Castellano said that in case we need to cancel she is exploring potential new dates of Sept 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> and is contacting the vendors/entertainers to confirm their availability. M. Atzert said that we should make the decision on Friday at Noon, and if there is a strong chance of thunder storms cancel and reschedule on one of the September dates. It was agreed that if we need to cancel A. Castellano will notify all those who signed up to attend in addition to the vendor/entertainers. C. DeCandia asked if Friday Nights is for the summer, and can we reschedule in the next two weeks? A. Castellano said that she can't do it the next two weeks and then it's Labor Day so that puts us in September. C. Kellogg said it's still nice out in September and won't be that much darker. There was general agreement to make the decision to proceed at Noon on Friday.

**B. Activity and trips for East Amwell Twp** – R. Georgett distributed a hand out with information on the scheduling of events and trips and suggestions on how to decide which the committee will run. She continued by walking through the events that have been held monthly and in the past. There were some corrections made to the content and discussion regarding what is required to hold an event/run a trip – including having a member of the Committee take responsibility for leading at least one event or trip each year. R. Georgett suggested in the next two months the committee should decide on what events to run and when.

P. Fick suggested adding one event because it could take a lot of work, and there was discussion regarding how many additional events/trips makes sense as we begin expanding. M. Atzert said we used to do Bingo, and it was agreed that this overlapped with the school. E. Johanson said that she would like to see a Bus trip to NYC and volunteered to lead this. C. Kellogg asked what events or trips received the most votes, what is our target population, and said that we need to make sure we spend our budget money. A. Castellano said the trips would not come from our budget, but would be self-

funded by attendees. A. Castellano said that she had done a survey during the last Friday Nights in the Park with two questions: What activities or events would you like to see at Clawson Park? and What activities or events would you like to see organized in general? She continued by reviewing the suggestions for Clawson Park events including movie night, wine night, pumpkin carving, local musician concert night, and softball/whiffle ball game; and general suggestions which included adult wine/beer night, cross country skiing, Trenton Symphony in the Park, and Ice Skating. A. Castellano also shared feedback and comments submitted on the surveys.

A Castellano said the success of any of these events/trip depends on marketing and that is how we increased participation in Friday Nights in the Park. R. Georgett asked how we decide what events and trip to do in the coming six months? M. Atzert asked what the Township Committee thinks, and A. Castellano said they expect us to expand. M. Atzert continued that he likes many of the ideas and expanding, but he is concerned about the execution of more events/trips because Committee members are already quite busy. M. Atzert said that he also feels we should start by adding one or two things and then see how it goes. There was further discussion regarding having Committee members leading events with other members being available to help and assist when needed.

A Castellano said that organizing trips is less work than running events. It was agreed that we need to expand gradually, get some successes under our belt, keep a balance of activities with some simple to organize and only a few more complex ones. This would allow Committee members to gain experienced in running trips or events. There was discussion regarding various event and trip suggestions that had been submitted, and what might be good for us in the coming year.

C DeCandia asked if we could survey residents through the website regarding what events or trips they would like to have, and R. Georgett said maybe we just need to get moving with an event and then survey later in the year. There was agreement that E. Johanson would put together a plan for a NYC Bus trip to review with the committee in September. A Castellano shared information about a special event at Old York Winery with a Mentalist, who is a mix between magic and mind reading. She shared information about what the show is like, that dates are being held for January if we want to do it, and it's an easy event to run. A. Castellano said she will be running this for the PTO, and we could do it as well. There was also interest in the Trenton Symphony in the Park and Pet Parade, and discussion regarding having fireworks at an event. A. Castellano said she will be attending a meeting with the Mayor regarding use of 4H South County Park for events, and will explore the option to have fireworks at events there.

R. Georgett recorded nine event ideas – Food Truck Friday, Line Dancing Course, Art in the Park, Memorial Day Celebration in the Park, Community 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade (possibly with fireworks), Yardsale Weekend, Trenton Symphony in the Park, Winery Event with Mentalist entertainment, and Pet Parade – and will solicit the top 3 votes from each Committee member. The top item will be the second new event/trip in addition to NYC trip.

M. Atzert said by starting slower event leads can pair up and help one another when doing something for the first time. He suggested that we target having our 2019 schedule by October with events/dates/budget, so we're ahead of township request for budgets. A.

Castellano said our new website will have the ability to pay on line which will make it easier.

**C. Volleyball** – A. Castellano said that with bad weather, this never happened but she will try to have volleyball in the fall.

**D. Clawson Park Water Maze Project** – no update

**E. Color Run on September 29, 2018** - A. Castellano asked if we want to have Parks and Recreation at the event, and suggested that Parks and Recreation Committee share a table with the Recycling Committee. E. Johanson agreed we should have a presence and said that it is a great time to advertise our events, get ideas for future ones, and solicit new members. E. Johanson, C. DeCandia, C. Kellogg, M. Atzert and A. Castellano are all planning to attend the Color Run for various reasons already. A. Castellano asked what do we as Parks and Recreation want to do? M. Atzert suggested we update a tri-fold board in the file room with pictures of recent events, and information about upcoming activities such as the Tree Lighting and NYC Trip. E. Johanson said she will handle the table, and C. Kellogg will assist if the Parks and Recreation table is next to his Nightingale table.

M. Atzert suggested that the Committee purchase Parks and Recreation shirts so that members are identifiable at events such as this. It was discussed and agreed that each committee member will pay for their own shirt. A. Castellano asked who can design the shirt, and E. Johanson suggested that we have a contest for the School art club to design a t-shirt. There was discussion that it would be difficult to do at the beginning of the school year with other priorities. C. Kellogg said he has a friend who can help do the design.

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

**OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE** – No Comment

**AJOURNMENT** - A motion was made by M. Atzert to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M. that was second by C. Kellogg and carried unanimously.

---

Rosemary Georgett, Parks and Recreation Secretary