

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL RECREATION COMMITTEE
November 21, 2013; East Amwell Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202, Ringoes, NJ

Call to Order

The meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Pete Fick. The following notice was read into the record by Recording Secretary Scott Bauman: *“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the June 6, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, a copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Township Clerk’s Office, posted on the municipal bulletin board, and faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat.”*

2013 Attendance

Member. Term Expires	5/30/13	10/17/13	11/21/13	12/19/13
Dawn Payne, Vice Chairwoman. 3 Year Term Expires 12/31/2013	X			
Michael Atzert. Term Expires 12/31/2013	n/a	n/a	X	
Erica Johanson, Alternate II. Term Expires 12/31/2013	n/a	n/a	X	
AmyAtzert. Term Expires 12/31/2014	n/a	n/a	X	
Pete Fick, Chairman. 2 Year Term Expires 12/31/2014	X	X	X	
Thyra Zengel. Unexpired Term Ending 12/31/2014	X	X	X	
Chris Kellogg, Alternate I. Unexpired Term Ending 12/31/2014	n/a	X	X	

Others present on 11/21/13: Kevin Inglin of South County Soccer League, and Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

Introduction of New Recreation Committee Members

Chairman Fick welcomed Erica Johanson, Amy Atzert, and Michael Atzert as new members to the Recreation Committee. Each newly appointed member introduced themselves and expressed enthusiasm in working with the Committee.

Approval of October 17, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kellogg made a motion, seconded by Chairman Fick to approve the October 17, 2013, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote with Mr. Atzert, Ms. Atzert, and Ms. Johanson abstaining.

Old Business / Updates

A. Tree Lighting December 8, 2013

Chairman Fick updated the Committee on the progress made in planning for the tree lighting event. Ms. Johanson volunteered to help decorate. Mr. Kellogg said he can have a few cub scouts come to help set up the event. Chairman Fick said the Girl Scouts will be singing Christmas carols. Chairman Fick sought volunteers to help set up and clean up; Ms. Johanson, and Mr. and Mrs. Atzert volunteered to help out.

B. Field Usage & Fees / South County Soccer League

Kevin Inglin introduced himself as being asked by the President of the South County Soccer League (SCSL) to represent the League at this Recreation Committee meeting. Mr. Inglin provided the Committee with a brief background of his involvement with the SCSL going back to 1999. Mr. Inglin said he understood that there was a standing relationship between the SCSL and the Township from the mid 1980s up to a few years ago; he cited Mike Stover as a good source for historical background.

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Mr. Inglin feels there are enough past agreements between the SCSL and the Township that they can be used to re-establish and revive what is already in writing. When Mr. Inglin was president of the SCSL in 2004, his recollection was that at some point the township was looking for places for active recreation at the school. The school owned the property, lighting was added later; Mr. Inglin's recollection was that the township had a budget item set aside for maintenance and operation of the field. The fields in question are 3 lit soccer fields near the municipal building, and 2 unlit soccer fields at the school. At the school property, the school mowed the fields, but the township fertilized and plugged it. In 2006 SCSL invested their funds to put a well on the property and place loads of topsoil, resurface the field, and install a sprinkler system. This year no one turned on the sprinklers, the field burned, and it is in bad shape. The township and the SCSL were not able to meet up to discuss.

Mr. Inglin continued by saying that in the past, outside organizations wanted to rent the field because the field is lighted. It was always Mr. Inglin's impression that the field was a township facility- he has turned away many outside leagues wishing to use the facilities. When funding was low in the past, the SCSL would step in; the SCSL has been maintaining the fields since 2006. Mr. Inglin said SCSL is willing to participate with discussions with the township on maintaining the fields. Mr. Inglin said he had numerous conversations with Angelo Lovisa when he was on the Recreation Committee but meetings between the two entities never materialized.

Mr. Inglin said the SCSL cannot rightfully hire a contractor to maintain the fields, but he is pretty sure the township put money aside to pay for the lights and rudimentary repairs. If any outside organization wanted to rent the field at the school they would need insurance. Mr. Inglin said they are short on fields- all are at capacity, and they cannot rest any of their fields. There are two soccer seasons- Spring (April –June), and Fall (July/September – Thanksgiving).

Chairman Fick said this was all new to him; he asked Mr. Inglin to email him a summary of what he said tonight- the situation sounds involved, and Chairman Fick is not even sure of the Recreation Committee's involvement. Chairman Fick thanked Mr. Inglin for attending this meeting.

Ms. Zengel entered the meeting at 7:55 PM.

C. South County Park

Ms. Zengel reported that she reached out to Kevin Novak of Delaware Township and has yet to hear back from him; Mr. Novak held a brief meeting with a freeholder about the South County Park plans. Ms. Zengel said the next step is to go to the county engineering department and have them prepare a park plan. Hopefully they will have a plan by the end of Spring 2014. Mr. Inglin said he would be happy to help collaborate on this if needed.

D. Adult Basketball

Ms. Zengel said they are moving forward, the insurance from the township is good through 2013; what the school has asked for it has received. They are reaching out to residents about the program that is held at the school Wednesday nights. There are some pick-up games. Non-residents should have a signed insurance waiver since the insurance covers residents only.

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E. Other Recreation Programs

Mr. Kellogg said he is concerned about funds in the budget that are sitting and not spent- there is a \$1,937 balance as of 10/21/2013. Can these funds be used to pay for outdoor movie programs in June, July, and August 2014? Ms. Zengel recalled past successes with outdoor movie programs. Mr. Kellogg agreed to put something together by the December meeting- specifically an outdoor movie program for Summer 2014.

December 19 Chairman Fick said that on the township's website, under Recreation Committee it says: "if it's fun we can get it done". The membership roster is outdated and there should be a list of planned activities.

New Business

A. 2014 Budget Preparations

Recording Secretary Bauman informed the Committee that the 2013 budget was \$2,450, and as of October 21, 2013, the balance was \$1,937.59. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to request \$2,450 for 2014; Chairman Fick asked Recording Secretary Bauman to include this item in next month's meeting agenda.

B. Vision Statement / Goal Statement

The Committee discussed the draft vision statement they received last month from Chairman Fick which read:

Possible Vision Statement- Actively pursue collaboration with the Township Committee and other Township Committees in the development and maintenance of parks, open space, playing fields, other facilities, and recreational programming.

Possible Goal Statement- To provide recreational opportunities to all citizens.

After a brief discussion, those in attendance agreed to the following changes:

Possible Vision Statement- Actively pursue collaboration with ~~the Township Committee and other Township Committees~~ in the development and maintenance of parks, ~~open space~~, playing fields, other facilities, and recreational programming.

Possible Goal Statement- To provide ~~recreational~~ social, athletic, and service-oriented opportunities to all citizens.

C. Discussion: Policy on Township Committee Members Serving on the Recreation Committee

Recording Secretary Bauman told the Committee that he could not find by-laws of the Recreation Committee like he could the other committees in the township. Mr. Bauman also noted that the Recreation Committee roster includes a Municipal Land Use Law citation rather than a local ordinance citation. Mr. Bauman said he would look further into the matter.

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Reports

A. Liaison Report: Chairman Fick- Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee

Chairman Fick told the Committee that Greenfest 2014 is scheduled for April 5, 2014 at the school and he would like the Recreation Committee to be involved; those present agreed.

Chairman Fick also shared an email he received from Toni Robbi of the Environmental Commission regarding geocaching- those in attendance were familiar with geocaching and thought it would be interesting to consider when planning future recreation programs.

B. Liaison Report: Kevin Inglin- South County Soccer League

Mr. Inglin thanked the Committee for having him at the meeting; he provided a summary of the SCSL which included that there are 8 recreation teams, 3 travel teams; there are 120 games in a season, 60 of those games are at home. The season begins in April and ends in November.

C. Liaison Report: Chris Kellogg- Amwell Valley Little League Baseball

Mr. Kellogg said there was nothing to report.

Adjournment

A motion by Mr. Atzert, seconded by Ms. Zengel to adjourn was unanimously approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2013, at 7:30 PM in the East Amwell Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
December 15, 2013

MOTION TO APPROVE: Michael Atzert

MOTION SECONDED BY: Amy Atzert

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: December 19, 2013