

## **Recreation Minutes – 7-17-14**

Present: Peter Fick; Erica Johanson; Sandra Gensini, Chris Kellogg, Amy Atzert, Mike Atzert, Thyra Zengel, Tim Mathews (Twp. Com. Liaison)

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Earlier in the day, Peter Fick provided a revised agenda by email, which was presented to all the members.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: No members of the public were present.

Minutes: Motion by Chris Kellogg, seconded by Erica Johanson, and carried to approve the minutes. Mike and Amy Atzert arrived during the following discussion.

Payment of Vouchers: A voucher for Easter candy and for office supplies, with account numbers, was presented for payment. The Committee agreed that the bills for the Easter candy were valid, but they were unclear about the \$89.67 for office supplies. The matter was briefly discussed, and it was agreed to withhold payment of the separate voucher for the office supplies until next month, when further information is obtained from the finance department. Motion by Chris Kellogg, seconded by Erica Johanson, and carried unanimously to approve the bills for Easter candy only.

Unfinished Business and Reports

Recreation Reports:

1) Thyra Zengel re: Softball; South County Park; Adult Basketball: Motion by Chris Kellogg, seconded by Tim Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the report from Thyra Zengel (via email dated June 18, 2014). Pete Fick commented on Thyra and her father, a member of the West Amwell Recreation Committee, being involved with meetings on the field development. During this report, Thyra Zengel came into the meeting and agreed that there was nothing new on the fields.

2) South County Soccer: Motion by Erica Johanson, seconded by Thyra Zengel and carried unanimously to approve the report. Sandra Gensini said that the season is finished and fields are being raked and prepared for further use. There will be a camp but the number of attendees won't be known until closer to the program in August. The plan for fall soccer is to use the municipal fields and a field at a church on Route 518 in West Amwell to "spare a school field." The only drawback is that there will be no lights. It's also anticipated that there will be double the number of spring players in the fall, with registration still going on. She also spoke about using a new website format and on-line registration; if there are any problems with the software, South County will go back to the previous program.

3) Aeration of the Soccer Fields: Philips Van Marter advised that the Soccer League is looking to arrange for aeration of the school fields in August, i.e., before August 15. Identifying location of the sprinkler system and sprinkler heads is the first step. Erica Johanson suggested turning on the system to find the heads. Tim Mathews asked who would be doing the work. There was a quote from Patrick McKnight at \$550 for the work; it is anticipated that South County Soccer League will pay for this.

Tim Mathews spoke about the Township Committee's charge to the Recreation Committee to develop a plan; Peter Fick agreed that once a plan is developed, it would be presented to the governing body. Tim Mathews asked about the vendor's insurance coverage for the work, i.e., if he gets hurt, ruins a field, damages light wiring, or causes other damage, is there a hold harmless and insurance to cover losses. Peter Fick will communicate this to the vendor and the League.

Further discussion took place on whether the Township was involved at all, or if the liability was between the school and the vendor. Peter Fick will contact Ed Stoloski about the intended work. Thyra Zengel spoke about the installation of the irrigation system, which was overseen by Dennis Hajek (then Chair of the Recreation Committee years ago), also commenting on the Township's involvement. Pete Fick read from a flyer that showed the following people involved in the 2007 irrigation project: Dennis Hajek, Chuck Miles, Mike Stover, Marty Alexander, and Paradise Irrigation. Pete Fick also mentioned that Twp. Administrator Tim Matheny is looking into the irrigation system and sprinkler head locations.

Motion by Thyra Zengel, seconded by Erica Johanson, and carried unanimously to approve the report on aeration.

4) Volleyball: The program is now going on, and Loretta Truppelli sent a video of the "pilot" program, approved by the Township Committee. Pete Fick also stopped by the park before the meeting to watch a game with about 12 participants. Pete also commented on a non-standard size net, which was purchased at a cost of over \$200 (rather than the originally intended \$119 from Dick's Sporting Goods), because he had to follow purchasing protocol. Chris Kellogg said that a true league type net might cost closer to \$1000. Pete again noted that the box said a 30 foot net with a boundary rope, but he measured it at 21 feet. He may consider returning it to the company for adjustment, and there was some agreement from the members about this.

Currently, Loretta is taking down and setting up the net. If there is enough interest in the program and it proceeds, Tim Mathews said that the Township may consider a better set up, being careful not to develop a league sporting group. Sandra Gensini asked about getting the information out to more people for more participation. Tim Mathews said that someone would have to be responsible for scheduling, set up, etc., as an organized body. Sandra said that she was specifically interested in seeing if 7<sup>th</sup> grade students could borrow the net (i.e., currently, Loretta Truppelli has the net in her car). Erica Johanson spoke about coordination of use, e.g., where it can be found, how to check it in and out, etc. Pete Fick suggested that if anyone is interested in using it, they should go through the Recreation Committee now.

Motion by Chris Kellogg, seconded by Thyra Zengel, and carried unanimously to accept the volley ball report.

5) Sprinkler and Lights at East Amwell School Soccer Field: Pete Fick met Philips Van Marter at the school fields and the sprinklers weren't working. He then contacted Tim Matheny. Tim Mathews mentioned that sometimes pumps get struck by lightning, with Pete mentioning that there was a blinking light on the system. Erica Johanson recommended that once the system is located, someone should write down a diagram for future reference. Pete Fick said that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is working on this.

Tim Mathews spoke about a \$500 bill for a pump located on school property. He also spoke about club responsibility. He mentioned reviewing electric bills at the last Township Committee meeting, and there was one specifically for the soccer field lights, which was over \$500 – he was under the impression that the lights weren't used in the summer. Sandra Gensini mentioned that there were two occasions when the lights were used. Tim Mathews spoke about determining if the Township is being over-billed for the lights, mentioning rumors that there was a flat fee for energizing, along with the usage fees and fees even when not in use. The goal is to determine if there is a need for lights or have them turned off; how to manage the lights and pay for them; and designation of authorized people to turn them on. Chris Kellogg suggested encapsulating switches with only a few leaders having access. Thyra Zengel mentioned that there is a combination lock on the lights, with only one switch for two fields, and she questioned the efficiency of use, along with too many people with access to the lock combination. She suggested dawn to dusk use of the fields, with special permission on certain nights to use the lights and a fee to cover partial use.

Tim Mathews reiterated that the Township Committee is looking to the Recreation Committee to make policy recommendations on this and other issues regarding the field use. Chris Kellogg and Mike Atzert suggested getting copies of the bills to analyze the costs. Tim Mathews said that he has already asked Tim Matheny and Christine Rosikiewicz to pull data to share with the Committee for their next meeting.

Mike Atzert asked if there was a combination lock, and who has the information. He suggested changing the combination as a first step and limiting the number of people who can access the lights. Sandra Gensini said that this would be a problem with the traveling teams (no access), also suggesting charging a fee to use the fields. Tim Mathews spoke about fact finding and under utilizing an asset, also noting a tough township budget season, with difficulties in maintaining a flat budget because of the reassessment and decreased state funding. He added that it was important to review the bills and perhaps have the electric company sit down with township representatives for options, such as changing the bulbs, circuits, etc. He said this was necessary because of the increased cost to the town, given the lack of utilization.

Motion by Chris Kellogg, seconded by Tim Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the light report.

6) Baseball Report: Chris Kellogg said that it was “a great season,” and all-stars are just wrapping up. He mentioned issues with T-3, particularly down the third base line to home plate, which was constantly under water and “a bad safety hazard for the kids.” Pete Fick asked Chris to put this in writing, explaining what was needed for repair. Tim Mathews explained that the DPW generally is able to utilize staff and equipment to move dirt, if needed. Chris Kellogg said that drainage was also an issue, and the league was waiting for grant funding. Tim Mathews explained that the Township Committee applied for NJ DEP funding, but it is not guaranteed, noting that East Amwell recently learned that they were not getting grant funding for a generator, which they thought that they had. Tim suggested that if there was some type of quick remediation, the DPW could help. Chris Kellogg mentioned that adding more dirt may not be the best option, explaining washouts that occur near T-3. Chris also mentioned the intent to have volunteers, with support from Home Depot, build dugouts on the fields – he ran into difficulties with zoning and with Raritan Township on permits.

Chris Kellogg commented on the League’s appreciation to the municipality and the firehouse for use of fields. Tim Mathews spoke about a past plan to move the peewee fields behind the snack shack; Thyra Zengel thought that the issue was that the site was too small and would interfere with soccer fields. Having a short term solution might be a temporary option to consider. Chris Kellogg mentioned the importance of having a clear, objective proposal for the 120 participants involved. He also commented on the achievements of the 12 year old players in the Branchburg Invitational.

Erica Johanson also commended the baseball league on their good efforts in recycling on the fields and “making a big difference.” Recycling Committee suggested getting garbage cans next to all the recycling cans for better separation of products; Chris Kellogg mentioned the large garbage cans on the field with lids that are too small.

Motion by Erica Johanson, seconded by Thyra Zengel and carried unanimously to approve the baseball report.

East Amwell School Use Form: South County Soccer League presented the request to use the fields from July 14 to November 23 with some night games/light usage. They have not scheduled games yet. Thyra Zengel was concerned with the blanket use of the ground, stating that she wanted to use the school field for weekly field hockey games from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday nights. Pete Fick suggested that her usage request should be worked out with the soccer league. Tim Mathews explained that this is just the type of policy that the Township needs to establish, i.e., management of field usage, explaining how the issue came to light when an adult league asked to use the school fields that South County had been using. Some comments were exchanged, with an agreement that there may have been some history about understandings on field usage, but a policy is needed now for all parties. Members asked Sandra Gensini who was coordinating the field usage for fall soccer; Chris Kellogg asked if there was a schedule template; Sandra Gensini mentioned travel team use of the field too; the committee eventually agreed that they could approve the South County Soccer League use from June through November but not on Thursday nights from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Additionally, Thyra Zengel will have to put in a formal request to use the fields.

Some comments were made about getting an insurance certificate; Thyra Zengel explained that the sports groups have to name the school as an additional insured for their own groups.

Memo on Sprinkler System and Lights at East Amwell School Soccer Fields: Pete Fick mentioned the memo from Administrator Tim Matheny, who is getting Stothoff Well Driller and the sprinkler installation vendor involved. Pete advised that the lines were winterized last year to keep from freezing. He also said that the lights were fixed.

Holiday Tree Lighting Update: Erica Johanson reminded the Committee about the previous discussion regarding replacing some of the decorations for the program. Maria Prendamano spoke with the Art Teacher, who is willing to work with students to make backgrounds for the event. She will need a sheet or muslim to make the backdrop. Erica suggested having the art teacher come to the building to scope out the site before deciding what to create. Tim Mathews thought that having the children's art work would encourage more attendance. Pete Fick asked Erica to get some specs on the sheets prior to purchase.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Movie Nights: Some discussion took place on the budget for the Recreation Committee this year, noting that approval of almost \$500 for Easter candy was processed tonight. The finance office will be sending all the boards copies of their budgets within the next few weeks.

Chris Kellogg mentioned using Hunterdon Bucks to arrange a movie night for a recent graduation party at a cost of \$200. He said that the most expensive part is the licensing costs, suggesting sharing a program with another entity. Mike Atzert said that he knows an organization that has a license and suggested partnering with them to have the movie on the property of the said organization. Amy Atzert agreed that this would be a great idea. Further discussion took place, with Thyra Zengel suggesting movies in September and October. Tim Mathews agreed, stating that if the movie couldn't take place because of weather conditions, the credit could carry over to next year. Chris Kellogg and Mike Atzert will work on this project.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

FOSPC: Pete Fick said that there was no meeting in July, thus no report.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A notice was received about a Salsa Marching Band who is available for parades.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Atzert, seconded by Tim Mathews, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.