

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 19th, 2023**

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

The meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:33 P.M. by Nathalie Nelson.

The following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read into the record by Jason Bloom: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the the Times of Trenton. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk's Office and posted on the bulletin board."

**2023 ATTENDANCE:** X=Present; A=Absent; E=Excused; C=Canceled (quorum=5 members)

<b>Committee Member (term expires)</b>	1/19/23	2/16/23	3/16/23	4/20/23	5/18/23	6/15/23	7/20/23	8/17/23	9/21/23	10/19/23	11/16/23	12/21/23
<b>Nathalie Nelson</b> (Chair)	X											
<b>Stefanie Hutchins</b> (Vice Chair)	X											
<b>Michael Dendis,</b> <b>TC Liaison</b>	X											
<b>Krista Austad</b>	X											
<b>Jason Bloom</b>	X											
<b>Francis Gavigan</b>	X											
<b>Alexa Hunt</b>	X											
<b>Alison Kavchok</b>	X											
<b>Emily Mastropietro</b>	X											

**NEW BUSINESS–REORGANIZATION**

1. A motion was made by member Hutchins to make member Nelson the chair of the committee. Member Gavigan seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
2. A motion was made by Chair Nelson to make member Hutchins the vice chair of the committee. Member Gavigan seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

## **CITIZENS PRIVILEGE TO SPEAK ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no members of the public present.

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

A request for a motion to approve the October 20th, 2022 minutes was made by Chair Nelson and was seconded by member Gavigan. They were unanimously approved.

## **SPECIAL DISCUSSION**

There were no items for special discussion.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Tree Lighting—overall, a success. An idea of adding more lighting was brought up by TC Liaison Dendis. Also, we need to look for a new giant star for the outside tree.
- House Decorating Contest-3 winners. Each winner received a gift card.

## **NEW BUSINESS / OTHER**

- **Advertise for Admin/Secretary**—secretaries of the other committees were asked if they wanted to also take on the role for P & R. Awaiting responses. If no one is interested, the position will be posted. In the meantime, member Bloom and co-chair Hutchins will take minutes (this meeting was also recorded via Zoom), and the committee will all take a role in Clawson park responsibilities such as reservations/signage. P & R email will be monitored and handled by member Bloom.
- **2023 Calendar of events and coordinators**
  - **February/March**—possible ice skating or roller skating event. Vice Chair Hutchins will get info. Also, member Mastropietro brought up a possible event at Gravity Vault in Flemington. In addition, a future Paint Party Fundraiser was discussed.
  - **April 1st-Easter Egg Hunt** at Clawson Park. Will need about 3000-4000 eggs. Estimate about 200 kids participating. The Rescue Squad will fill eggs. but the idea of giving them a break and having other organizations (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, committee members, etc) was brought up by member Bloom. Vice Chair Hutchins stated that candy prices have increased. Estimate is \$250 from BJ's wholesale club. Will also need 12 larger bunnies from the dollar store and some new plastic eggs. Money to purchase new eggs can come from grant. The idea of having the photographer return was also discussed. In addition, a new costume for the Easter Bunny (who that person will be is yet to be confirmed) , a sensory area, and a coffee truck instead of Kona were discussed. Lastly, we will no longer have a DJ. As always, we will invite the Fire/Rescue squad to the event. We will need people the day of the event to set up and clean up. Vice Chair Hutchins will lead this event.
  - **April 15th-16th Township Wide Yard Sale.** This date was picked because it is the weekend before the Township Clean Up Day. This yard sale will take place at Clawson Park or at people's houses. An idea of having a food truck was discussed.
  - **PTO Color Run May 6th**—we will advertise for this event at P and R events.
  - **High School Music Festival** (No date yet, but in the works)

- **Summer Playground in July**—more details below
  - **Friday Nights in the Park 7/14, 8/18, and 9/15.** 5:30-7:30 pm except for 9/15 which will be from 5-7 pm. Member Mastropietro will coordinate vendors for the July/August dates. There will be no vendor fee this year. Dan and JSK will be asked again to return.
  - **Somerset Patriots Game**—an idea was discussed to add some money to the ticket price for P and R fund. In addition, have a day and a night game (with fireworks) option. Member Bloom will coordinate.
  - **Fall Fest/Chili Cook Off/Bake Off** the weekend of 10/14-10/15. This will also involve decorating pumpkins, and will include a photographer (paid for by stipend or grant). May also include a “Touch a Truck” activity. Cost should be \$500 or less for this event. Vice Chair Hutchins and member Hunt will lead this event.
  - **Tree lighting** on 12/1/23. P & R members will decorate the weekend of November 26th. Chair Nelson will lead this event with help from members Austad and Mastropietro.
- Discussion about working together with Delaware Township. They post the dates of their events for the year. Should we do the same? Also, should we invite someone from DT to our monthly meeting?
  - Summer Playground/US Sports-July. Kate Puglia will possibly take over for Thyra Z. Time may be extended from 9-12:30. Kids need to be able to use indoor bathrooms and water fountains. Price increase from \$85-\$100 Hope to have registration/dates out to the public by the end of February.
  - Clawson Park Ordinance and Signage—will coordinate signage with Jason S/DPW.
  - Water Fountain at Clawson Park— \$3617 and will be for seasonal use. Vice Chair Hutchins brought up the idea of putting a plaque on the water fountain dedicating it to the Castellano Family. She said she will pay for the cost of the plaque and present this idea to the Township Committee for discussion and vote.
  - Grant-Basketball Court and Shade—estimate for shade coming in March. Vice Chair Hutchins is coordinating this. GameTime will also be contacted regarding this shade.
  - Moving forward, all purchases must go through committee chair Nelson.

## **ORAL REPORTS**

1. Clawson Park: Member Hunt will provide future updates either in person or via email. There were no updates at this time.
2. Township Committee—Mike Dendis was present for the meeting.
3. Budget—Chair Nelson will update budget on Google Drive

## **PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

There were no vouchers for approval.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was provided prior to the meeting either in hard copy or via the Parks and Recreation Committee shared drive.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION for ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No additional items were discussed.

**ADJOURN**

A request for a motion to adjourn the East Amwell Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was made by Chair Nelson, seconded by member Bloom and was unanimously approved at 9:06pm.

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Jason Bloom, Acting Secretary