

## **Hamiltonban Township Recreation & Parks Commission**

23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011

**Members Present:** Cathy Jo Lehmer, Chairman; David Jones, Vice Chairman; Doreen Premo, Secretary; Juanita Larmer, Treasurer; and Alan Patterson. Kris Feldmeyer and Alex Kessel, Fairfield Borough Recreation Liaison were absent. There was a quorum. Juanita Larmer left for emergency police work at 7:40 PM. The quorum was maintained.

**Others Present:** Mr. Jeff Feiler and Mrs. Deborah Feiler, Township Secretary/Treasurer.

Chairman Cathy Jo Lehmer called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

**Approval of Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Lehmer called for approval of the July 13, 2011 and August 10 minutes. Dave Jones so motioned and Alan Patterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Old Business:** Secretary Premo reported that we had received a letter of support and intention from the Eagle Scout Austin Stroup, Fairfield Area Boy Scout Troop 76, in the event the Township receives a mini-grant from the South Mountain Partnership in 2012 and that Austin is still available to cooperate on developing the Township park and walking trail at that time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Larmer reported that the beginning balance and the current balance in the RPC account is \$369 as there were no expenses or deposits in the interim. Alan Patterson motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dave Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Treasurer's Report will be filed in the official RPC records book.

**New Business:** The RecTAP grant application form was passed out and members were asked for help with filling out the application. Secretary Premo will collate all worksheets and send in a grant request for help to pay for a landscape designer through the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society. The planned Peer to Peer Study was briefly reviewed, and last month's paperwork including the Township Resolution 2011-15 to participate in this study was passed out to those who had missed the meeting. The PRPS membership notification was mentioned and the PRPS Conference Brochure was discussed with no one interested in attending. The meeting to discuss the denied grant application with Kim Williams, South Mountain Partners, and Mike Piaskowski, DCNR scheduled for last Friday, September 10, was postponed due to a bad storm. They will be rescheduling this meeting with Supervisor Reamer and RPC Secretary Premo in preparation for applying for the 2012 mini-grant round sometime within the next few weeks. There is a DCNR notebook named *The Official Map: A Handbook for Preserving and Providing Public Lands and Facilities*, Publication 703, sponsored by DCNR, PennDOT, DCED, and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association available at the Township Office for members of the Commission to read.

**Guest Speaker(s):** Township Secretary/Treasurer Deborah Feiler and her husband, Jeff were present to discuss trails from the viewpoint of hikers. Some of the highlights of the discussion were that the paths should be designed with the lowest impact possible on the environment - there should be no gravel paths, just natural surfaces for walking; trails should be blazed to keep hikers on the trail and colored to coordinate with the trails at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve; trail width ideally would be 3 feet to 4 feet wide; the trail should not be for mixed use, i.e. no bikes or horses; and usage rules should be established including what is packed in is to be packed out (leave no trace – large Ziploc-type bags may be used for trash and other refuse to be disposed of at home or, where available, store or gas station trash bins), and hikers are to stay on the trails, especially avoiding trespassing on private property. This is a security issue, especially as the trail will cross over a children’s church camp property. (The Feilers assured us that the greater majority of hikers respect other people’s property and are interested only in completing the goals they have set for hiking.) The trail should have information boards located at the trailheads protected from the weather by glass or acrylic panels as well as a mailbox with a trail log where hikers can sign in and date their hike. This latter measure is for the safety of the hiker(s) in the event there should be the need for a search. Effort should be made to find volunteers to keep the trail in good condition, and also to find people willing to donate supplies such as plywood or boards to cross over streams or low-lying spots on the trail. There are many trail guidebooks available to help the hiker find trail maps, rules, food, lodging, etc., and the proposed Middle Creek Trail would be listed. There are already a great number of trails at Camp Eder and Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve already mapped out for the hiker. One item to be worked out is that where the trail would cross Camp Eder property, there are 10 foot high deer fences with a gate to protect an orchard. The hiker would need to be aware of the need for closing the gate.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Township Meetings:** The following public meetings will be held at the Township Office at 23 Carrolls Tract Rd. at the local prevailing time of 7 PM unless otherwise noted.

- A. Planning Commission – September 27, 2011.
- B. BOS Workshop – September 29, 2011.
- C. BOS Regular – October 4, 2011.
- D. Recreation and Parks Regular – October 12, 2011.

**Other Meetings/Events.**

- A. Joint South West Comprehensive Plan – October 6, 2011, Fairfield Borough Hall, 7 PM.
- B. PippinFest – Fairfield Borough – September 23–25, 2011.

**Adjourn:** Doreen Premo motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Alan Patterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Doreen C. Premo, Commissioner/Secretary  
Hamiltonban Township Recreation and Parks Commission