

**Lower Salford Township  
Park Board Minutes  
February 27, 2024**

The February 27, 2024, Park Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Kent Krauss. Also in attendance were Vice Chairman Pete Harubin, Jan Johnson, Ryan Beltz, Amy Burch, Andy Lazzaro, Mark Kelley and Secretary Holly Hosterman.

Chairman Krauss asked for approval of the January 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Andy Lazzaro made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Kelley seconded. Minutes unanimously approved as written.

Chairman Krauss recognized local resident Bonnie Forbes from the 71<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Also accompanying Ms. Forbes were Randy Goode of the 71<sup>st</sup> and Don Ernsberger & Mike Ernsberger of the 69<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers. They were in attendance to discuss using the Heckler Plains Farmstead for “School of the Soldier”. This use would be a re-enactment and would be April 6<sup>th</sup>. All members of the Park Board were in agreement that this would be a positive use of the park. Ms. Hosterman asked Ms. Forbes to complete a special event use application along with insurance coverage certificate.

Chairman Krauss recognized Joan DiMaria of the Heckler Plains/Historical Society who presented the monthly report of happenings within the Society. Currently, there are 2 Scouts working towards their Eagle status by completing projects at Heckler Plains. Ms. DiMaria noted that the Society had also received a quote to repaint the Bergey Mill barn at a cost of \$11,000. She provided an update on the summer kitchen door at Heckler that had been “kicked-in” by someone at some point and it has been partially repaired but needs a permanent fix. Discussion of Heckler led to the upcoming Historic Barn Tour in 2024, and the Heckler Barn is on the agenda for this group. They are planning to visit in June of this year. Ms. DiMaria also noted that an electrical upgrade is needed at the Heckler house, as fuses routinely blow.

Don Orcutt of the Historical Society was also present. Don noted that the safety lighting in Heckler Plains Park seems to not be functioning as the park has been dark every time he has driven by in the evenings. Ms. Hosterman said she would take the information provided back to the Township Public Works department for their investigation. A copy of the most current Agenda of the Historical Society is available at the Township for viewing if requested.

Chairman Krauss asked Ms. Hosterman to provide the Planning Commission Agenda. Ms. Hosterman noted that the agenda did not contain anything that would require Park Board input.

**The following reports were given for the various Township parks:**

**Alderfer Park** – Jan Johnson reported that there was a new story on the Story Walk. She also noted that the large piece of sealant that was torn from the path is still laying in the grass.

**Bergey Park** – Andy Lazzaro reported that the park looked good. He did note that the abutment along the creek could be a safety issue.

**Briarwyck Park** – Amy Burch reported that the park looked good. Ms. Hosterman noted that the fishing pier will be replaced this year.

**Bucher Park** – Mark Kelly reported that the park looked good. He did report that there were some deep tire ruts near the path next to the basketball courts.

**Groff's Mill Park** – Andy reported that there was some wash-out near the front of the paved parking area.

**Heckler Plains Farmstead** – Pete Harubin reported that there were branches down from the white pine trees from a recent storm.

**Kulp Road Pond Park** – Looks good.

**Park Avenue Field** – Amy Burch reported that the fields are looking good.

**Reed Park** – Pete Harubin reported that everything looked good and that the new pickle ball courts are seeing a lot of use.

**Reiff Park** – Ryan Beltz reported that the first greenhouse is up and running. Security cameras have been installed and the park now has Wi-Fi.

**Roth Park** – Jan Johnson reported that everything was fine. Review of upcoming updates to the park.

**Trail Report** – Sealant in many cracks has been displaced and there are trees down. No paths are being blocked, but the winter did take its toll on the trees.

**Wawa Park** – Ryan Beltz reported that the park looked good. However, there are ruts from cars doing “donuts” in the open space. This is an ongoing issue that has happened for many years. The police are aware, but it is never easy to catch these bandits in the act.

**Kiosk Report** – Amy Burch reported that the kiosks are ready for spring information.

### **New Business & Correspondence:**

Ms. Hosterman told the members that she had received a call from Ryan Lehman of Lehman farms, that he will no longer be able to farm the parcels due to health reasons. She told them that the Township has drafted a letter to the other farmers in the Township that currently utilize Township-Owned land for farming. She said she would report back at the next meeting as to how this plays out. It is the hope of the Board of Supervisors that local farmers continue the farming tradition on open space parcels.

The members then discussed the updates proposed for Roth Park. Public Works Director Doug Jones had provided a sketch of what was proposed, grading the playground area, removing trees near the pond, refencing the playground area, creating several new parking spaces and getting a new park sign. Other ideas were also discussed, but the members were in favor of all the changes noted. To view the informal drawing of the changes, please give the Township Office a call.

Ms. Hosterman told the members that the Pennsylvania Primary Election is scheduled on the same day as the April 23, 2024, Park Board Meeting. The Township Building is a polling location, so the venue for the Park Board Meeting would need to change. After a short discussion, the members agreed to hold the meeting at Jacob Reiff Park. Ms. Hosterman will update the website with this information.

**Old Business:**

Ms. Hosterman updated the members on the applications and agreements for this year's field usage. She noted that she was still waiting for the Harleysville Eagles and the Harleysville Soccer group. She will update everyone at the March meeting.

Amy Burch & Andy Lazzaro shared the most recent updates from the Sidewalks & Trails Committee. They said that at the last meeting, the list of priorities was reorganized based on available grant monies. The Walkable Lederach Study was also close to completion and a draft report was close to being completed.

Ms. Hosterman noted that the Township had received word from Montgomery County that the Bergey Mill Road Bridge replacement was moving forward, and the project would be going out for bid in the near future. The County will also be adding a new path on the Bergey Mill property as part of the agreement with the Township that requires a sliver of land to be used to construct the new bridge.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Chairman Krauss entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Amy Burch motioned for approval and Andy Lazzaro seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hosterman, Secretary