

**Lower Salford Township
Park Board Minutes
June 27, 2023**

The June 27, 2023, Park Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice Chairman Pete Harubin. Also in attendance were Jan Johnson, Andy Lazzaro, Ryan Beltz, Mark Kelley and Secretary Holly Hosterman. Also in attendance was Heckler Plains/Historical Society member Don Orcutt.

Vice Chairman Harubin asked for approval of the May 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Andy Lazzaro made a motion to approve the minutes and Jan Johnson seconded. Minutes unanimously approved as written.

Vice Chairman Harubin asked if there were any visitors who would like to speak. He recognized Stephanie Moyer. Stephanie has been coming to Park Board meetings for over a year to stay involved. She asked if the Township would consider putting shade canopies at some of the parks over, near the playground equipment. Ms. Hosterman noted that she would certainly put it on the list for consideration for next year's budget.

Present to discuss the latest updates with the Heckler Plains Historical Society was Don Orcutt. Don reported that the Ice Cream Social was happening on July 16th at the Bergey Mill Farmstead. He also noted that the Pennsylvania historic barn society would be visiting Heckler Plains on July 1st for a tour. The Society is planning to include the Heckler barn in their 2024 tour.

Vice Chairman Harubin asked Ms. Hosterman to provide the Planning Commission Agenda. Ms. Hosterman said that there was a conditional use application for 196 Main Street as well as revisions to the existing structure at 355 Maple Avenue. Trails within the 355 Maple Avenue submission would be discussed later in this meeting.

The following reports were given for the various Township parks:

Alderfer Park – Jan Johnson reported that everything looked good. She did inquire about the trail connection once the new development is completed.

Bergey Park – Andy Lazzaro noted the park looked good.

Briarwyck Park – Amy Burch was not in attendance, but had previously provided a report. She noted that the pond was about half algae growth/half clear. She also reported that the graffiti on the bench was still visible.

Bucher Park – Mark reported that the cap on the end of the bench near the basketball court is still missing. He asked about the resurfacing of the hockey court. Ms. Hosterman said that was going to be in the budget for 2024.

Dannerth Park – Mark also noted that everything looked great, but the picnic table continues to deteriorate. There is also a pothole in the parking lot.

Groff's Mill Park – Andy reported that the bench near the stream had been removed as requested. He asked if there may be a picnic table for the future?

Heckler Plains Farmstead – Pete Harubin reported that the park looked great. Did ask about a lock on one of the barn doors and if there was a key?

Kulp Road Pond Park – Good shape

Park Avenue Field – Amy reported that the fields were looking good.

Reed Park –Pete reported that the park is in good condition. He did note that there is grass growing in the well around the memorial and a few pieces of it have broken off.

Reiff Park – Ryan Beltz reported that the second greenhouse has begun to take shape. He noted that the team at PWC is taking butterfly inventory by visiting the park on a weekly basis. PWC has also planted numerous plantings to encourage butterfly population.

Roth Park – Mark Kelley reported that the park looked good.

Trail Report – Nothing new to report at this time.

Wawa Park – It was noted that the park was in good shape. Ryan reported that if desired, the PWC could install additional plantings in the drainage areas to encourage better absorption of stormwater.

Kiosk Report – No report.

New Business & Correspondence:

Ms. Hosterman had previously provided an electronic plan proposal provided by Velocity Ventures, LCC for additional trails at the 355 Maple Avenue structure that was previously owned by Nationwide Insurance. The current owner, Velocity Ventures, LLC, was asked by the Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting to provide a separate plan for additional trail connections on the property. This trail plan was received June 26, 2023 and the Park Board, along with the Planning Commission and the Trails and Sidewalks Committee would be reviewing this proposal. Ms. Hosterman noted that at the June 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting, the applicant's representative stated that the developer was willing to include additional trail connections. Those 2 connections that were discussed at the meeting were an internal connection from Maple Avenue up to the loop that is around the former ball diamond, and another trail that would traverse the frontage along Maple Avenue, up to and along Oak Avenue to Harleysville Pike/State Route 113. It was important to the supervisors to connect the trail to the new subdivision that is currently being built at the corner of Oak Drive and Harleysville Pike/113. After reviewing the plan provided and discussion among the members, an email, dated June 27, 2023 sent by Park Board Chairman Kent Krauss, was reviewed. Chairman Krauss noted:

“I too am very concerned that upon initial review the connections we requested are not shown. We can't defer the curb and sidewalk and permit the trail if they are not going to make the connections as we spoke about. I will suggest that we ask for a revised plan showing the connections. Without these revisions I do not think I am going to be able to approve.”

Vice Chairman Pete Harubin made a motion to agree with the statement from Chairman Krauss and request the revisions from the developer. Member Mark Kelley seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Hosterman noted she would take the information back to the Supervisors as well as the Planning Commission and the Trails and Sidewalks Committee.

Old Business:

Member Andy Lazzaro reported that the recent open house for the “Walkable Lederach Study” had been very successful. Ryan Beltz reported that there continues to be quite a bit of activity at Reiff Park with the new greenhouses and that their current butterfly inventory has shown between 30-40 species in and around the park and the stream. .

The Park Board will be taking a summer break and the next meeting will be in September on the 26th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the Township Office. This meeting is open to the public.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Harubin entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Andy Lazzaro motioned for approval and Ryan Beltz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hosterman, Secretary