

**Lower Salford Township
Park Board Minutes
April 23, 2024
Jacob Reiff Farmstead/Dragonfly Farm Greenhouse
775 Quarry Road**

The April 23, 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 noted that the March 23, 2024, Park Board Minutes were not ready for approval at this time and would be reviewed for the May Meeting.

Chairman Krauss recognized local resident Stacey Bryan of 284 Jacobs Circle. She had previously contacted the Township about installing a “Little Free Library” near her home that would close to the Township path that leads to Heckler Plains Park. She told the members about the library concept and that it is a nationally recognized organization that provides “how tos” as well as support. The Park Board was generally agreeable to the concept and asked her to provide additional information, specifically location, size, maintenance, etc. Ms. Hosterman noted that it would be beneficial to meet with her and with the Township Public Works Director to fine-tune the actual location for installation.

Chairman Krauss recognized local resident John Paine of 691 Store Road. Mr. Paine had been at the March Park Board meeting to inquire about making and installing a waterfowl nesting box. He had been asked to build the box for the next meeting and he had it with him this evening. He presented the cylinder-shaped nest that would be used mostly by mallards. After some discussion on installation, location, etc., he was asked to reach back out to Ms. Hosterman to schedule a meeting with Township Public Works Director, Doug Jones, for actual fine-tuning of location.

Also in attendance was Clay Jones of the Healthy Kids Running Series. Mr. Jones is a local resident who coordinates this series each year. It is currently held at the Upper Salford Township Park, but they are looking for a more permanent location. After some discussion of the series, what it’s about and how many children participate annually, he was asked to provide additional information via email to Ms. Hosterman. It was also suggested by Mr. Krauss that the group may fit well with the Harleysville Community Center location on Park Avenue versus a Township pavilion/park.

Chairman Krauss recognized Joan DiMaria of the Heckler Plains/Historical Society who presented the monthly report of happenings within the Society. Ms. DiMaria noted that the recent re-enactment by the 71st regiment was a success. She noted that Bonny Forbes, who coordinated the event with Joan and the Township, is hoping to have the event there again in 2025. She also noted that both Eagle Scout projects are moving along well. She then asked Ms. Hosterman if the Township could remove a “threshing motor” that has been put in the historical barn. A motor would be out of place in a 1700-themed barn. Ms. Hosterman said she would reach out to the Public Works Department to get it removed. Joan also let the Board know that the “Stone Barn Project” of the Historic Barn & Farm of Pennsylvania group would be touring Heckler Plains on

Saturday, June 8th. She said that the Society would be “sprucing up” the barn and the grounds in the near future for the visit.

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 the park has been seeing a rise in vandalism with pink spray paint all over swinge set equipment, The Story Walk as well as on railroad ties, etc.

Bergey Park – Andy Lazzaro reported that the park looked good.

Briarwyck Park – Amy Burch reported that the park looked good. Lots of fishing!

Bucher Park –Mark Kelly reported that the park looked good. He did note that the hockey nets are in shreds and shared a photo of the nets. Ms. Hosterman will forward to the Public Works Dept.

Dannerth Park – Mark Kelley reported that everything looks good

Groff’s Mill Park – Andy reported that the park looks good and the wash-out repaired with graded gravel.

Heckler Plains Farmstead – Pete Harubin reported that the park looks great, and the beds were recently mulched.

Kulp Road Pond Park – Looks good. Bubblers are on in the pond for the summer.

Park Avenue Field – Amy Burch reported that the fields are looking good. She noted that there was still a cover on the upper field to help with grass growth.

Reed Park – Pete Harubin reported that everything looked good. He did note that the Handicap Signage needs to be replaced.

Reiff Park – Ryan Beltz reported that everything looks good and that he and his staff at PWC are preparing to submit for another round of grants for Phase II of the streambank project.

Roth Park – Mark Kelley reported that everything was fine. Another Park Board member noted that they had been at the park recently and noted that a dog obedience school had been using the park/trail for dog training, yet there is a sign near the pond that says, “No Dogs Allowed”. The question arose if dogs are allowed in that park. The answer is “yes”, and the sign pertains to dogs swimming in the pond. Ms. Hosterman said she would have Public Works re-word the sign to include no “swimming”.

Trail Report – All good

Wawa Park – Ryan Beltz reported that the park looked good.

Kiosk Report –Chairman Krauss said he would be providing Country Fair Days Fliers for the Kiosks.

New Business & Correspondence:

Ms. Hosterman told the members that the Township had been contacted by a local resident wishing to “farm” Township-Owned open space for flowers. The idea of a future “community garden” was discussed. At this time, the Township does not have enough staff to pursue this idea fully, but feel it is well worth considering for the future. Joan DiMaria said she would contact this resident and offer the use of the flower bed “four-square” garden at the Heckler Farmstead.

Ms. Hosterman discussed recent vandalism at both Alderfer Park and at the Lederach Golf Course. She noted that both areas would soon be equipped with cameras (or additional ones) and that the Lower Salford Police would be stepping up patrols in these areas. She told the members and guests present that if they witness any type of suspicious activity to report it immediately to the Township Police Department at 215-256-9595.

Old Business:

An update of the improvements at Roth Park was also shared with the group. All noted that the park looks more organized and usable, as well as safer for wildlife and visitors.

Amy Burch & Andy Lazzaro shared the most recent updates from the Sidewalks & Trails Committee. They said that at the last meeting the final draft was presented. This was put on the website. They noted that the final report will be forthcoming in the next several weeks.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Chairman Krauss entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mark Kelley motioned for approval and Andy Lazzaro seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hosterman, Secretary