

**MINUTES FOR THE
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2025**

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Present for the meeting were Frank Coppo, Chair; Flora Kapp, Secretary; Liz Willow; Karen Nocella; Eric Hughes; Cathy Carney-Horner; and Amy Holland, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager. Bruce Stephens, Vice Chair, was absent.

Call to Order.

Mr. Coppo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge was recited.

1. Minutes.

A. Consideration of Approval of the July 22, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Nocella made a motion to approve the July 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Coppo seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

2. New business.

A. None.

3. Old Business.

A. Consideration of Five-Year Budget.

Ms. Nocella made a motion to approve the Five-Year Budget with Mr. Coppo's changes to increase the budget for the John Doyle Run by \$500 each year per Ms. Kapp's request. Ms. Nocella made a motion to approve the Five-Year Budget. Ms. Carney-Horner seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Consideration of Making a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to Acquire Parcel 18-4-167 (i.e. 100 Maack Road, 2.9 acres).

The Committee discussed the property that runs along the "high value" Pigeon Creek next to the Wineberry portion of East Coventry Nature Preserve. It was mentioned that an environmental study would be in the best interest of the Township residents. Environmental grants are available for the project. This property would also provide trail connection opportunities entering and leaving East Coventry Nature Preserve.

Ms. Nocella made a motion to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to acquire Parcel 18-4-167. Mr. Coppo seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

- C. Discussion of Making a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to Develop a Conservation Easement with Natural Lands for Parcels 18-4-120.1, 18-4-120.2, 18-4-132.1, 18-4-132.2, and 18-4-132.8 (i.e. Ellis Woods Park).

Ms. Holland informed the Committee that parcels 18-4-120.2, 18-4-132.1, and 18-4-132.2, and 18-4-132.8 (i.e. Ellis Woods Park) were purchased with Open Space funds. Parcel 18-4-120.1 was not and Mr. Briggs, Township Manager, requested this parcel not be part of the request to avoid any restrictions that may be placed on Township for renovations of the current facilities

Ms. Nocella made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors to develop a Conservation Easement with Natural Lands for Parcels 18-4-120.2, 18-4-132.1, and 18-4-132.2, and 18-4-132.8 (i.e. Ellis Woods Park). Ms. Carney-Horner seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

- D. Discuss Design of Towpath Park Signage.

Ms. Willow suggested more of a recreational theme rather than historical. Ms. Nocella will talk to vendor and ask for design samples for September meeting.

- E. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding Approved Eagle Scout Project – Bridge Over Pigeon Creek on the Schoolhouse Trail; Logan Small, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 127.

Ms. Nocella explained that Mr. Small has until May to complete the project and that he has been to the site to review/survey.

- F. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding Potential Raptor Nest Box Acquisition and Addition of Kestrel/Owl Nest Boxes to East Coventry Township Parks System.

No updates at this time.

- G. Discussion/Receive Update Regarding Creekview/Ellis Woods Park Land Use.

No updates at this time.

- H. Discuss Official Boundaries of Ellis Woods Park and East Coventry Nature Preserve.

Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that the trails sub-committee meeting was good. He also explained the relocation of the trail in Ellis Woods Park to remove it from the Willows' property. He supplied maps from Chesco Views and made several recommendations to close one end of trail and provide natural barriers at the other. Ms. Holland stated that the Township Manager does not feel a survey is needed and relocating the trail and blocking access to the current trail will keep people from accessing the Willows' property. Ms. Willow stated there are some markers and feels it is a minor change. Mr. Willow, 683 Ellis Woods Road, requested a survey be completed to officially mark the boundaries thus removing any question going forward.

Mr. Coppo suggested that a motion to consider making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to complete a survey to mitigate any issues regarding the boundary of the Willows' property now and in the future be made next month.

I. Discuss East Coventry Nature Preserve Trail Conditions and Maintenance Issues.

Ms. Kapp mentioned the weeds needed to be cut back along the Schoolhouse Trail, yellow tape needs to be taken down at the Pigeon Creek Trail, weeding of caged trees and fill holes around bench.

4. Committee Events.

A. Consideration of the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Nocella made a motion to approve Saturday, October 25, 2025 for the Fall Festival to be held at Fricks Lock Village. Mr. Coppo seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Discuss Potential for East Coventry Township Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Ms. Willow had no updates and mentioned the Veterans will restart meetings soon and she is putting word out to local Scout troops.

C. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding Historic Schoolhouse Goals, Details and Maintenance Issues.

Ms. Nocella reminded the Committee that Open Space funds were used to buy this parcel and monies from this fund can be used to restore the Schoolhouse. It was decided that Committee members will review and bring the ideas/goals for the Schoolhouse to the September meeting. Ms. Nocella volunteered to attend the next Historical Meeting to discuss their ideas/goals.

5. Public Comment.

Steve Willow – 683 Ellis Woods Road: asked about the cell tower installation planned for the Township Building. As the Committee was not aware of this, Ms. Holland suggested that Mr. Willow attend the next Planning Commission meeting for more information.

Ms. Willow informed the Committee that the Keystone 10 Million Trees contacted her and that they will be offering 1,000 trees, but they do not know what and how many we will be available. The Committee is planning to plant the few we have in the Fall.

Ms. Holland informed the Committee that restoration of the bridge over Hershey Run had been completed.

Grace Sorrell, 101 Grubb Road: Informed the Committee that she had sent information regarding this program to Mr. Briggs. Ms. Holland informed the Committee that Mr. Briggs had received Ms. Sorrell's request and turned it down citing responsibility for maintenance of location area. Ms. Carney-Horner asked why this was not presented to the Committee prior to his turning it down; is there a process that should be followed, are there other things that are being turned down without being presented to Committee? Ms. Holland said she will ask Mr. Briggs about any formal processes and stated the email was addressed to the Township and not the Parks and Recreation Committee, and that the office staff forwards emails when they are addressed to the different Committees and Commissions.

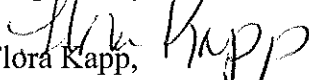
Ms. Willow asked what happened to the Pickle Ball rules sign at the courts. Committee members informed her that there was never a sign and that the folks who brought this item to the Committee's attention two years ago never followed through.

Ms. Nocella asked Ms. Holland why the trails have not been blazed on the conservation easement located on Nestor's property. Ms. Holland informed the Committee that the Public Works Department has been very busy and to send an email.

6. Adjournment.

Mr. Coppo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Nocella seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Flora Kapp,
Secretary