

East Coventry Township Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/27/2021
Time: 7:35PM

Meeting Called By: Jason Stouch
Meeting Notes By: Flora Kapp

Attended	Name	Attended	Name
	Bruce Stephens, Chairmen	X	Flora Kapp, Secretary
X	Cathy Carney-Horner	X	Karen Nocella
X	Jason Stouch, Vice Chairmen		Gary Hughes
X	Liz Willow	X	Frank Coppo

Guests in attendance: Connie Coppo; Gail Brown, Chairman, Cathy Subick, Secretary and Larry Tietjen, Vice Chair, Historical Commission; John Grablewski, Chester County Craft Works; Jeanne Barrett Ortiz and Kelly McGinley, Landscape Conservation.

Agenda Item: Review of March 2021 Minutes

- ❖ Karen made motion to approve March 2021 minutes, Jason seconded, all in favor; minutes approved.

Agenda Item: Stone Wall - John Grablewski, Chester County Craft Works

- ❖ Karen thanked Gail Brown for all her work in saving the free standing stone wall, a piece of East Coventry's history, which was a stepping stone for the Township to acquire surrounding property. Karen also mentioned this to Michael Lane's replacement, Trish ?? .
- ❖ John Grablewski introduced himself, his background and company. He handed out information on structure and repair of a free standing wall, offered ideas for funding repair and fielded questions from members of the Historical Commission and our Committee.
 - Offer classes for those interested in learning the process.
 - Repair in sections (budgets).
 - Clearing of trees interfering with wall integrity (at least 2' behind wall needs to be cleared). By who (township vs contractor), in sections or all at once and when it should be done (now or when restoration begins).
- ❖ There was discussion regarding whether or not stone wall could be put on National Register as there are grant monies available. Historical Commission will do further research and also reach out to Warrick Park and Chester County to see what they have done.
- ❖ Gail asked if Open Space money can be used for restoration of wall. Karen explained yes it can be used for maintenance and that roughly \$15,000 has been raised from the annual Rock the Wall 5K & 10K runs which is to be used for wall restoration or a match if grant money can be obtained. Karen also explained that anything over \$19,000 must go out to bid.
- ❖ Liz inquired about drainage for wall. Larry explained that Ray is addressing drainage issue on property and John explained that drainage pipes are not needed for this type of wall, there is no mortar and the natural process takes care of it.

Agenda Item: Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Senior Program Manager, Landscape Conservation - 2021 Plants for Birds Program as part of a Delaware River Watershed Initiative program funded by the William Penn Foundation

- ❖ Jeanne introduced herself and Kelly McGinley. They explained their program for protection of riparian buffer. The program provides a native plant/shrub package (total five plants) for free to residents of Chester County that have a stream running through their property. The program runs through May with pick up at Township May 21st or at Yellow Springs Farm by appointment. They would like the Township to offer to residents.
- ❖ Committee agreed to publish to residents via kiosks, website and Karen's facebook page.

- ❖ Jeanne/Kelly to send information to Karen for posting.
- ❖ Liz to provide a list of properties she knows of with stream so they can be reached out to.

Agenda Item: American Rivers Grant Update

- ❖ Karen explained to Committee that grant has not been awarded and that Michael Lane was worried about timeline to get trees ordered and planted should grant be awarded to Township.

Agenda Item: Miscellaneous

- ❖ Karen met with Michael Lane's replacement, Trish, and gave her a tour of Township parks and trails. Karen explained that Trish was very impressed with our Kiosks and parks.
- ❖ Karen informed Committee that Rick Trailles came to Ellis Woods to review facilities complaints about weeds (areas where wild flowers were planted). He suggested putting signs in these areas "Wildflower Gardens in Process", etc. so residents are informed what is happening. Takes at least 2-3 years for flowers to take root and produce. Landscaper coming to weed around newly planted trees and replace dead trees (under warranty).
- ❖ Frank attended meeting regarding old East Coventry school. Gym to be used for climate controlled storage. Fields may be used for area league teams, etc. There are not any plans to date for green house which Frank would like to use for possible Township plant exchange, etc. He will keep abreast of situation.
- ❖ Committee decided on Saturday, May 15th, 9-12 for weed pulling at Ellis Woods.
- ❖ Liz motioned to adjourn meeting, Frank seconded, meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm.

Signed: Ilona Kapp Date: 5/25/21