

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2025**

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Present for the meeting were Frank Coppo, Chair; Liz Willow; Cathy Carney-Horner; Karen Nocella; and Eric Hughes. Bruce Stephens, Vice Chair; and Flora Kapp, Secretary were absent.

Mr. Coppo called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and the pledge was recited.

1. Minutes.

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

Ms. Nocella made a motion to approve the April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 5-0-0.

2. New Business.

A. Discuss Updates to Township's Kiosk Trail Maps.

Eugene Briggs, Township Manager, presented the item and informed the Committee that the Township is in the process of finalizing several conservation and trail easements. As a result, the kiosk trail maps, one at Ellis Woods Park and two at the Nature Preserve, will need to be updated. Mr. Briggs also noted that the current maps contain several inaccuracies. The Committee agreed to establish a subcommittee, which will include members of the Open Space Committee and Public Works Director David Rishel, to oversee the map updates. Committee members to serve on the subcommittee will be selected at the June meeting.

B. Discuss Preparation of Five-Year Budget for Committee.

Mr. Hughes moved to table this item until Flora Kapp, Committee Secretary, is available, the current budget has been reviewed, and future planning has been prioritized. Ms. Willow seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 5-0-0.

C. Discuss Nature Preserve Trail Conditions and Maintenance Issues.

The Committee discussed several items, including filling in holes along Pigeon Creek; clearing brush along the field side of the stone wall to create a walkable area; potentially recommending a larger project to the Board of Supervisors for the Public Works Department pending budget confirmation; installing additional benches along the trail near the Purple Martin houses; and the possible nomination of the Historic Schoolhouse for inclusion on the Historic Register. Ms. Nocella will attend a Historical Commission meeting to discuss that item.

3. Old Business.

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

No update was provided.

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

No update was provided.

C. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding Parks Issues; i.e., Prospective Future Creekview/Ellis Woods Park Land Use; Official Boundaries of Ellis Woods Park and Nature Preserve; Preservation of Ellis Woods Park Parcels, etc.

No update was provided.

D. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding David Yeck Foundation Grant for “Hershey Run” Bridge Improvements.

The Committee discussed that the Yeck Foundation Grant funds had been allocated to another project. Trisha McCloskey suggested that the Committee wait until August or September to submit a Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation grant application. Ms. Nocella will provide Mr. Coppo with relevant details concerning that application for future discussion by the Committee.

E. Discuss Potential Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Ms. Willow presented this item, and advised that she was hopeful that the Boy Scouts and/or ROTC would sponsor this event, given the excellent support they provided at the Ellis Woods Revolutionary Cemetery Memorial Day Sunday Observation. A recommendation to the Board of Supervisors will be made if the Committee decides to sponsor this event.

4. Committee Events.

A. Discuss 2026 John Doyle Run Preliminary Details and Logistics.

Pretzel City has communicated to the Committee that there are many events taking place in late April/early May that may conflict with the 2026 John Doyle Run. The Committee discussed changing the date to a Saturday in September, but several members expressed concern about changing the timing of the ten-year anniversary run.

B. Discuss Future Small-Scale Planting Activities.

The Committee discussed the requirement that any planting done on Township property requires approval by the Board of Supervisors.

5. Public Comment.

Mr. Briggs emphasized the need to replace the bridge over Hershey Run.

6. Adjournment.

Mr. Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Ms. Nocella seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Hughes /rw
Eric Hughes,
Committee Member