East Coventry Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/27/09 **Meeting Called By:** Karen Nocella

Time: 7:30 pm **Meeting Notes By:** Flora Kapp

Attended	Name	Attended	Name
X	Bruce Stephens		
	Carol Tucci		Melissa Ciacci
X	Karen Nocella	X	Mike Laporta
	Kathy Bickel		Rob Bly
X	Flora Kapp		

Guests in attendance: Walt Woessner – Planning Commission
Rose Miller, Tim Roland -- Township Supervisors

Agenda Item: Approve minutes of November 2008 meeting

Minutes reviewed and approved with correction: remove Walt Woessner as he is a guest, not a member of the park & recs committee.

Agenda Item: Meadowbrooke Hunt 20 foot public easement in development

- Walt informed committee of 20' easement displayed on township planning commission map
- Questions raised by committee:
  - How can it be used by township?
  - Is it registered, recorded?
  - If easement stands, can it be put into township trail plan?
  - Northern Federation of Trails, 100' environmental restriction, how would this effect easement?
- Karen to research easement, if it was registered with county - Recorder of Deeds, look up parcel #.
- If stands, committee to provide recommendation of usage to BOS.

Agenda Item: Meadowbrooke Hunt emergency road to be used in trail plan

- Developer wants to pay fees ($33,0000 to fire company) in lieu of completing emergency road access as required by township.
  - It was explained that township requires developer to provide emergency access road for developments with cul-de-sacs if road is 24' or less in width. Roads 28' wide do not require emergency access as they would be wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- As this is first and foremost a safety issue for the residents of this development, the committee recommended to the board members in attendance that the builder comply with emergency access requirement and keep this access as part of the township trail plan.

Agenda Item: Trail easements

- Current horse trail at intersection of School House Road and Bishop Road, runs along Carol Galanski, on Alan ????, and Bob Scott's properties into Meadowbrooke Hunt. As Alan's property is for sale, Karen inquired if he would be acceptable to providing continued trail use via deed or easement. He is agreeable but would need information on how to proceed.
- Questions arose:
  - Is the township ready to accept easements?
  - Have there been any previous easement requests to the township?
  - How would is an easement created/obtained, what is the procedure?
  - Survey – is owner willing to pay for/facilitate or would township?
  - Tax benefits?
- Karen had spoken to Pam Brown regarding this issue, two options:
  - Property owner donate to non-profit organization to receive tax deduction (i.e. French Creek Conservancy)
    - If this is done, would non-profit have restrictions for usage?
  - Property owner specify in deed trail easement.
- Per Tim Roland, supervisors would be open to accepting easements.
- Draft letter to Bernie/township mgr, requesting discussion on easements be on agenda.
- Concern that the 1992 Open Space Recreation & Environmental Resources Plan which references greenways and horse trails (unofficial) is out dated and needs to be updated to meet current township needs for open space and trails before more sub-developments enter and change land usage and trail options are lost.
  - Current plan determined number and size of parks/greenways based on size of township population at time of creation and growth, but this needs to be reassessed as township population has grown.
- Karen explained that Bernie wanted to apply to DCNR to redo plan, but was shot down because of the Northern Federation plan that is in place.
- Bernie is concerned that the while the Northern Fed plan is good it may be too generic in regards to the fee in lieu of issue.
  - It was noted that there is a pending request for fee in lieu of ($125,000) – Rt 23 development.
  - Informed by Tim & Rose that township solicitor is working on wording for ordinance, but they were not sure of status.
  - Karen to check with Bernie regarding status and make request to be on agenda next board meeting. If need be, request Carol to provide wording for review by solicitor. Wording should include "to be used anywhere in municipality" and not contiguous.
  - Karen provided Tim with copy of DCNR wording.
  - Were informed that this would be a long process to till enacted – so we need to get going on it.

Agenda Item: Maack property update

- Per Pam Brown we should receive word in February whether or not awarded grant of $400,000 (Gambone $50,000, township $50,000)
- Bonnie sent letter to Bill Gladden, director of open space, Chester County, from township to show how interested the township is in the purchase of the Maack property
- Can reapply for DCNR grant in April

Agenda Item: Northern Federation of Chester County update

- Karen Nocella is citizen at large representing East Coventry
- Rose Miller and Harold Kulp also attending meetings
- Each township is to have a steering committee – Karen, Rose & Walt
- Bernie sent package to Christine McNeil
- Northern Federation is trying to encompass all areas, historical, schools, trails, etc. of all townships involved – trying to bring tourism from Valley Forge out to Coatesville.
- They would like input regarding sports teams, i.e. what & where fields are used, number of children involved, type and number of sports teams/leagues from each township.
- Schuylkill River Plan – were informed by Tim & Rose that it was progressing

Agenda Item: How are we doing with fee in lieu of?

- See Agenda Item Trail Easements

Agenda Item: Park Day or National Trails Day?

- Park Day – 1st week in June – did not hold this event last year
- Karen suggested a Trail Run in place of Park Day to introduce new trails & possibly Maack property to public. Suggestion to start trail at township building, going through nature trail, etc. & back through Hershey Drive.
- Karen spoke to Don at Chester County Running Store; he organizes these types of events and would be willing to talk to us & help organize. Karen to invite him to next meeting.

Agenda Item: Other

- Tim and Rose informed the committee members present that the BOS feels the Parks & Recs committee is moving in the right direction and that all board members are supportive and appreciative of our efforts. They feel in light of the name change the role of the committee should possibly be broadened, more formal (i.e. historical committee). The committee could be doing more and would not have to go through the BOS for everything if guidelines/bylaws were created and in place. Referenced Appendix D of the Recreation and Parks Board Handbook (which was handed out). Committee to inform BOS of decision.
- It was noted that conservation is not being handled in the township now and a more proactive approach needs to be taken.
- We were asked to inform others to be respectful of owners of property & crops when riding through
- Informed Tim & Rose that the trail plan is a proposed/conceptual plan of the trails we would like to see in the township to meet all needs, horseback, walking/hiking, bicycling, etc.
    - Need to request Bernie put Trail Plan on next BOS agenda.
    - Bernie does have color copy of trail plan.
    - Were informed that BOS has not seen the plan.
    - Mike had presented to the BOS meeting. He informed BOS at that time the next step would be to have a professional turn conceptual plan into real plan.
    - Will need to present to BOS again to make request.
    - Tim to get color copies made and distribute to each BOS.
    - Once the trail plan is official then ideas are set and we have a tool to work with.