

**MINUTES FOR THE
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 25, 2023**

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Present for the meeting were Bruce Stephens, Chair; Jason Stouch, Vice Chair; Karen Nocella; Cathy Carney-Horner; Liz Willow; and Frank Coppo. Flora Kapp was not in attendance.

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stouch called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and the pledge was recited.

1. Minutes.

A. Consideration of Approval of the June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Stouch made a motion to approve the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Mrs. Willow seconded the motion, Mr. Stephens called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

2. Public Comment.

No public comments were made.

3. Committee Events.

None were brought before the Committee.

4. Additional Items.

A. Consideration of Pickle Ball Court Use Rules Including Proposed Signage and Paddle Racks.

Mr. Stephens said feedback received concerned players who do not want to have to rotate play and prefer playing with friends on the same skill levels. Mr. Stouch asked for specific wording for signage. Mrs. Nocella will work up a draft copy and share with Gary Hughes.

Mr. Stouch made a motion to move forward with the signs and verbiage stating the rules. Mrs. Nocella seconded the motion, Mr. Stephens called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Consideration of Memorial Donations to Township Parks.

Mrs. Nocella stated recently a resident requested to install a plaque on a bench at Towpath Park in memory of his son. This was completed at a cost to the resident of \$185. The Committee discussed placing a notice on the Township website about this opportunity to include benches, trees, plaques, bike racks, birdhouses, and more. Mrs. Willow agreed with the concept but advised that more discussion was needed to establish standards, word limits, and consistency throughout our parks. Mrs. Nocella will gather information and type up something for us to consider in August.

No action was taken by the Committee.

C. Review of the Management of Ellis Woods Park Fields.

The meadows, formerly farmed, were cut short after growing and providing bird and mammal habitat during the spring. It is understood that mowing is a vital part of park management, but the timing should better reflect the life cycles of the wildlife, in many cases, nesting birds. Eric Hughes, Open Space Committee Member, suggested getting a conservation plan for the park by the Chester County Conservation District, utilizing our Open Space funds and grants, because he would like to see the Township benefit from better habitat as a nature preserve. Mr. Hughes stated he would be happy to provide input based on his expertise during the conservation planning process in order to transition the fields from farmland to wildlife habitat.

Mrs. Willow made the to ask the Chester County Conservation District to create a management plan considering emphasis on wildlife habitat and native grasslands as a portion of the plan instead of all farmed fields, with input following a map reviewed by the Committee. Mr. Stouch seconded the motion, Mr. Stephens called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

D. Update on Spraying of Invasives at Ellis Woods Park.

Mr. Coppo stated he has not heard back, following several emails from Mr. David Sutton, who was previously cleared to help control weeds.

E. Update on the Revolutionary Cemetery.

Mrs. Willow explained that the Pottstown Joint Veterans Council is unable to produce a current deed for the property and therefore unable to transfer ownership.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to continue to treat the Revolutionary Cemetery as one of our own parks and move forward accordingly. Mrs. Nocella seconded the motion, Mr. Stephens called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

Adjournment.

Mrs. Carney-Horner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Mrs. Willow seconded the motion, Mr. Stephens called for a vote and the motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Willow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "Respectfully submitted,".

Liz Willow,
Acting Secretary