

**MINUTES FOR THE  
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Present for the meeting were Frank Coppo, Chair; Flora Kapp, Secretary; Liz Willow, Karen Nocella, Cathy Carney-Horner, Bruce Stephens, and Eric Hughes.

**Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

**1. Minutes.**

**A. Consideration of Approval of the October 22, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve the October 22, 2024 meeting. Ms. Nocella seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 7-0-0.

**2. New Business**

**A. Discussion February 2025 Bird Walk.**

Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that he contacted Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFAS) and confirmed the possibility of holding a joint VFAS/PRCC bird walk at Ellis Woods Park on Saturday, February 22 at 7:30 am.

**3. Old Business**

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

Ms. Nocella informed the Committee that she had not received any update.

**B. Discuss Purple Martin House Acquisition and Installation Details.**

Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that the Township Public Works Department has moved forward with acquiring and siting the purple martin house.

**C. Discuss Potential Raptor Nest Box Acquisition and Addition of Kestrel/Owl Nest Boxes to East Coventry Township Parks System.**

Ms. Willow informed the Committee that she is still gathering information on construction and placement of Kestrel/Screech Owl box. She shared an article regarding a grant Hawk Mountain received for promoting habitat and education for Kestrels, Barn Owls and the

Northern Harrier. Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that he had been in touch with Jim Moffett of French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and was supplied plans for a hinged/telescoping box.

**D. Discuss Ellis Woods Park Land Use.**

The committee discussed possibilities for possible land uses on the Creekview parcel. The committee determined that it is in the best interest of the township and the users of Ellis Woods Park for the Creekview parcel to be kept in a “natural” state, specifically as a managed meadow or other open habitat with predominantly native vegetative cover. Justification for this included (but was not limited to): maximization of aesthetic beauty, providing optimal wildlife habitat, eliminating the need for regular herbicide application, runoff prevention (minimizing erosion into Pigeon Creek). Ms. Nocella informed the Committee that she would contact the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee regarding possible grants.

**4. Committee Events**

**A. Consideration of Making a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to hold the 2025 John Doyle Rock the Wall 5k Run /Walk and 10k Run on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Mr. Stephens made a motion to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the 2025 John Doyle Rock the Wall 5k Run/Walk and 10K Run on Saturday, April 05, 2025, and to rename the event to the John Doyle Rock the Schoolhouse 5k Run/Walk and 10k Run, in order that the proceeds can be used for the restoration of the historic schoolhouse. Ms. Nocella seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 7-0-0.

**B. Consideration of Making a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for the Historic Schoolhouse Decorations.**

Ms. Nocella made a motion to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the historic schoolhouse holiday decorations. Ms. Carney-Horner seconded the motion. Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 7-0-0.

**C. Discuss Wreaths Across America Event.**

Ms. Willow informed the Committee that the handicap parking space has been completed and reminded all that the event will be held at 12PM at Ellis Woods Cemetery on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. Public Comment

Ruth Seponski – 890 Ellis Woods Road: asked the Committee what she would need to do to have a plaque made in memory of an individual and placed on one of the benches in the pickle ball area. Ms. Nocella explained that a Township form would need to be completed and returned with the required amount for purchase of plaque.

Mr. Coppo commented that he would like to see a wood duck box in Pigeon Creek along the meadow.

Ms. Nocella reminded the Committee of the Christmas party to be held on December 07.

Ms. Willow wished the Committee members a Happy Thanksgiving, and that she would like to change the name of the “unnamed Pigeon Creek tributary” to “Hershey Run”.

Mr. Hughes commented that he would like the Committee to consider the following items: creating a mowing plan for park meadows for protection of wildlife habitat; water management regarding the bridge entering Ellis Woods Park; Towpath Park remodeling phases; educational signage on the Wildcat Trail; and higher-level consideration of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

## 6. Adjournment.

Ms. Willow motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Ms. Nocella seconded the motion, Mr. Coppo called for a vote and the motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Flora Kapp  
Secretary