

**MINUTES FOR THE
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. Present for the meeting were Frank Coppo, Chair; Flora Kapp, Secretary; Liz Willow; Karen Nocella; Eric Hughes; Cathy Carney-Horner, and Amy Holland, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager. Bruce Stephens, Vice Chair, was absent.

Call to Order.

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

1. Minutes.

A. Consideration of Approval of the August 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

The August Minutes are to be revised per Ms. Hollands comments; the Committee will review for approval at the October meeting.

2. New business.

A. Discuss Removal of Ailanthus Tree at Ellis Woods Park.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was procedure to follow for the removal of trees (*i.e.* Ailanthus tree) at Ellis Woods Park. Mr. Briggs informed the Committee that the information regarding removal of a specific tree could be sent directly to Public Works. Public Works would then determine if it was within their ability or should be handled by an outside source.

B. Discuss Preventing Dog Waste Bag Littering at Ellis Woods Park.

Mr. Hughes asked what could be done regarding the bags of dog waste thrown into the woods near the Ellis Woods Park trailhead stone path. The Committee suggested that a simple sign be posted at the location asking visitors to place debris in trash cans and if this did not solve the problem further measures could be discussed. Mr. Hughes will inform Mr. Briggs of the location and Mr. Briggs will see that a laminated sign is posted.

C. Discuss Continuing Vegetation Maintenance along East Coventry Nature Preserve Stone Wall.

Mr. Hughes inquired as to the remaining native trees along the part of the stone wall that has not been restored, as they are healthy and he would like to see them remain. Mr. Briggs

explained that Public Works did not have any plans to remove any trees along wall at this time.

D. Discuss Fall Riparian Buffer Maintenance Day.

Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that the trees along the riparian buffer are doing well but are due for clean-up. He also asked if approval from Board of Supervisors is required. Mr. Briggs explained since these are trees planted by our Committee and not the Township, that we already have approval for their maintenance. He suggested to let Public Works know the Committee's plans.

E. Discuss Jahaco Memorial Bench Program.

Ms. Nocella explained to the Committee that Jahaco is a company that makes benches out of recycled materials which would not deteriorate like wood benches and that it might be something to consider going forward. She also mentioned that placement (current and/or future) of benches could be shown on park trail maps but discussion on this topic will be held at another meeting.

3. Unfinished Business.

A. Consideration of the Design/Wording for Towpath Park Signage.

Ms. Nocella shared ideas of image for Towpath Park sign with Committee, as did Ms. Willow. It was determined that an historical theme would be suitable. The Committee was informed by Ms. Holland that there was no funding left in the Phase 1 budget for this signage. Mr. Briggs explained that signage was not part of current work and Wayfinding budget. Schuylkill Highlands awarded Township \$10,000 for signage and estimated signage is \$20,000. He recommended making a decision on complete image/wording for sign as soon as possible.

B. Discuss Anticipated Details Regarding Potential Township Conservation Easement With Natural Lands for Parcels 18-4-120.2, 18-4-132, 18-4-132.2, and 18-4-132.8 (i.e. Ellis Woods Park).

Ms. Nocella explained to the Committee that a survey, title search and appraisal are part of the process performed by conservation company. The company conducting the conservation easement process maintains all invoices and then applies for grants to cover these costs.

C. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding 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 Logan Small is working on the project and plans to have it done by May.

D. Receive Updates Re: Raptor Nest Box Acquisition Possibilities and Addition of Kestrel/Owl Nest Boxes to East Coventry Township Parks System.

The location for Kestrel/Owl box still needs to be determined by Committee. Once the location is determined, Mr. Coppo plans to make pole for the box being donated by Mr. Hughes, which the Committee will need to ask Public Works to install with concrete base.

E. Receive Update Re: Parks Issues – i.e. Prospective Future Creekview Land Us, Official Boundaries of Ellis Woods Park and East Coventry Nature Preserve; Preservation of Ellis Woods Park Parcels, etc.

No update at this time.

F. Discuss East Coventry Nature Preserve Trail Conditions and Maintenance Issues.

No updates at this time.

4. Committee Events.

A. Discuss 2026 John Doyle Run

Ms. Kapp asked Committee members to be thinking about logo for t-shirts and letters to sponsors.

B. Discuss 2025 Fall Festival.

The following items have been completed: signs posted; band - Ken & John; food and ice cream trucks; owl presentation; Ms. Coppo – baked goods, and face painter. Decorations to be completed day before.

Members from the Committee attended the September Historical Committee meeting and discussed date for 2026 Fall Festival. The Historical Commission was agreeable to a date change for Fall Festival and asked to be reminded in January.

C. Discuss Potential for East Coventry Township Flag Retirement Ceremony.

There were no updates at this time.

D. Discuss/Receive Update Regarding Historic Schoolhouse Goals, Details and Maintenance Issues.

Members from the Committee attended the September Historical Committee meeting to discuss their ideas for Schoolhouse restoration. The Historical Commission would like to meet at the Schoolhouse to review and formulate ideas.

5. Public Comment.

Mr. Briggs offered the use of the conference meeting phone for better communication in the event Committee members cannot be present for meeting.

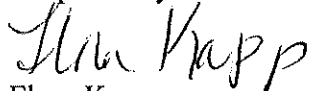
Ms. Carney-Horner asked about the procedure for residents' ideas concerning Township parks (i.e. rain gauge) being directed to our Committee for discussion.

Ms. Nocella asked for other ideas as another Boy Scout obtaining Eagle Scout reached out to her for project. A couple of ideas mentioned were getting rid of invasives and the Historical Commission needs help with consolidating files.

6. Adjournment.

Ms. Willow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Coppo seconded the motion and called for a vote. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Flora Kapp,

Secretary