

Tewksbury Township Parks & Forestry Committee

Oct 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Charlie Garrett (Chairman, CG)
Greg Davidson (GD)
Norman Diegnan (ND)
Hope Kaufman (HK)

Meeting called to order at 7:40.
Flag salute.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the September committee meeting.

Committee Discussion

Committee discussed township forestry maintenance plan. CG shared advisory email from Mayor Van Doren regarding current status of plan and township's ability to support execution of said plan. HK and ND shared that current plan is simply a draft and not a completed plan for state submission. Committee agreed that it is important that any final plan that is submitted to the state should have clarity as to how that plan will be executed.

Committee approved a motion to make a request to the township for an evaluation of the effect of an approved forestry plan on the township's liability insurance premium—as the committee does not possess this information about the township's insurance premium. The committee's belief is that the insurance premium savings to the township with an approved forestry plan in effect would likely cover any additional expenses necessary to execute on said plan. Should the township determine that this is correct, the committee will pursue development of a final forestry maintenance plan to submit to the state—as well as a strategy for the execution of that plan.

In the meantime, the committee requests that the township continues to fund the CORE training requirement in case it is decided to pursue the final forestry maintenance plan. Abby Devlin will represent the committee at the upcoming NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference--Oct 24-25 in Cherry Hill, NJ (need to ensure budget is committed to cover her attendance). The committee believes that it is important for a member of the township DPW to also participate in order to fulfill state continuing education requirements. ND shared that he plans to participate at the October 28 township "workshop", where he will report any findings from this conference.

ND agreed to take care of Arbor Day requirements and report back to the committee.

Committee discussed that Jess Landon has secured a landscape architect to come up with a plan for the arboretum. Committee will review once plan has been completed.

Committee discussed and approved the request from Shana Goodchild to provide \$2400 towards necessary repairs for the tot lot in Oldwick.

Committee expressed an interest in pursuing potential Winter seasonal park activities (e.g. ice skating area, Winter carnival) and agreed to discuss further at next meeting.

Committee also expressed interest in identifying new park project(s) for 2015 (e.g. new soccer field, fitness trail, dog days/park) and agreed to discuss further at next meeting. GD agreed to develop blurb for Tewksbury Times to solicit input from township residents on potential park projects for 2015, as well as the ongoing call for new committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Next Meeting: November 12, 2014.