

Tewksbury Township Parks and Forest Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 9th, 2016

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30PM

Attending:

Hope Kaufman (HK)
Amy Elliott (AE)
Rob Elliott (RE)
Norman Diegnan (ND)
Ed D'Armiento (ED)

Absent:

Charlie Garrett (Chairman, CG)
Greg Davidson(GD)

Welcome

Meeting began with the introduction of a new Parks Committee Member Amy Elliott. Committee welcomed Amy and exchanged introductions.

Minutes

Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 10th, 2016 meeting. February minutes were approved as amended by voice vote.

Public Participation

Dawn Pogosaew attended the meeting on behalf of the Tewksbury Women's Club. Dawn is the Garden Chair and is leading the Club's efforts for outdoor activities within town. Dawn followed up on items she presented in the February meeting. Two walkthroughs of the Pascal property were scheduled, the first was held the morning of the meeting(March 9th), the second is scheduled for March 12th. The objective of the walkthrough was to review where the work was

going to take place and an assessment of what was needed to be done. Dawn met with members of the Native Plant Society – Hunterdon Chapter.

Dawn mentioned that several projects were under discussion including the removal of invasive weeds in a section of the Park. Dawn met with Oldwick Boy Scout Troop 199 and received a commitment for help from the Scouts in the removal of the invasive plants. Discussions were also had with the Scouts on the building of Benches, Picnic tables, a Pathway of woodchips, a crushed gravel buffer between the parking lot and garden. There is also a building of a rain Garden under consideration.

Dawn has received a grant for Milkweed plugs to be planted at the Park. She is also working with a nursery 'Pineland Native Plants' to acquire additional plant species.

Dawn informed the committee that Laura Gould of the Native Plant Society will speak at the Oldwick Manor (behind the Firehouse) on April 5th. Laura will be discussing invasive species.

Committee Discussion

The committee was very pleased and thanked Dawn for all of her efforts in leading the the very ambitious project. Discussions continued around additional opportunities for townsfolk to participate in the project. Suggestion was made to have an 'It's my Park' day at Pascal. Committee agreed that as progress is made at the Park we will look to schedule a community day.

HK requested that the Town Administrator attend a future parks meeting so the Arboretum can be discussed further.

ND gave an update on the plans for Arbor Day on Friday, April 29th. ND will be picking up the tree saplings on April 8th, the saplings will be distributed to the TES students as part of the event.

ND informed the committee that Paul Fabiano, Scoutmaster of Oldwick Boy Scout Troop 199, will be speaking to the kids about energy savings, and renewable energy including discussions on Solar Panels and Windmills.

ND mentioned that Charlie Hildebrant has donated a tree that will be planted as part of the event and that Shana will be arranging for a photographer to capture the festivities.

Committee discussed the Movie plans for the summer. All agreed on the August 27th date for the Drive-in Movie. HK will follow-up with Shana on the process to book the required equipment. She will also look into the Rain cancelation policy.

Movies agreed to thus far are Minions, Inside Out and Star Wars. It was suggested that Star Wars should be the choice for the Drive in Movie. Movie choice for National Night out is still under discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Next meeting date is scheduled for April, 13th, 2016

Submitted by Edward D'Armiento