

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The following RAC members were present: Tara Christman, Dwayne Henne, Mark Bedle, and Dave Laxx. No members of the public were present at the meeting.

TAPING OF MEETING

It was noted that no one was taping the meeting this evening. The meeting was documented by the RAC Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

All members present approved the Draft January 9, 2024, RAC Meeting Minutes.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

ACTION ITEMS

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan

- The Chairperson noted that they had some very minor comments on the 2nd draft of the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. One additional revision was noted by member Dave Laxx. All members agreed to forgo an additional meeting with the consultant and request the revisions be completed and the plan be finalized. The Chairperson stated that the revisions will be sent to Rich to forward to the consultant with our request to finalize the plan.

Washington Township Parks & Recreation Logo

- Boyertown High School Logo Contest. Member Tara Christman stated that she would follow up with the art teacher to discuss procedures and methods.

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Washington Township Newsletter

- Discussion on articles to send for newsletter. Deadlines for submissions are May 15th and November 15th. Potential articles discussed included: Native Plants – “Plant This, Don’t Plant That”. Invasive Species Control, Lantern Fly Update, Hazardous Chemical Disposal Options, Climate Change – Limit Mowing Lawns (to create welcome environmental for butterflies, birds, and small mammals).

EAC and RAC Merger

- Discussion on potential merger of the EAC and RAC. A lot of discussion took place regarding the potential merger of the two committees. Limiting factors are the EAC is codified in our ordinances and Comp. Plan recommends formation of the Parks & Recreation Board. Shifted focus to potential meetings 2x a year. Both committees will work together on preparing articles for the newsletter. Further discussions took place regarding holding environmental education meeting for the public.

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW

- Not Discussed

RECREATION FUND & GRANTS

- Current Grant Status. Chairperson Mark Bedle stated that he discussed the grants with Township Manager Rich Sichler, and they plan to meet to further discuss the status of all recreation grants.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Volunteer Update. Include in the newsletter.
- BARDS and Bechtelsville REC Meeting. Chairperson Mark Bedle is still working on getting the meeting scheduled. It was mentioned that maybe attending one of their meetings would make it easier to schedule the meeting.
- Chairperson Mark Bedle discussed potential wetlands studies at each of the Township parks. Mark sent an introduction email to Kutztown University to see if student assistance is available for the study. Vice Chairperson Dwayne Henne mentioned that Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy might be able to work with us and the student.

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BOS RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Draft Official Map recommendation letter to BOS. Minor revisions were noted by member Dave Laxx. All members agreed to have the secretary finalize the draft letter (with revisions) and submit to the BOS.
- Draft Trail Easements and Licenses letter to BOS. All members agreed to have the secretary finalize the letter as drafted and submit to the BOS.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next RAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Due to a schedule conflict, all members agreed to reschedule the March 2024 meeting to the following Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Laxx and seconded by Mark Bedle to adjourn the February 20, 2024, RAC meeting at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark D. Bedle
RAC Chairperson