

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mark Bedle called the Washington Township Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., at the Washington Township Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

The following RAC members were present: Tara Christman, Dave Laxx, Dwayne Henne and Mark Bedle. The members of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) were also present at the meeting to review two development plans. The following EAC members were present: Shannon Delp, Jerry Silverman, Matt Rhoads and Dot Dornsift. Also present was Board of Supervisor Romney Long.

TAPING OF MEETING

It was noted that no one was taping the meeting. The RAC Secretary is keeping a handwritten record of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mark Bedle and seconded by Tara Christman to approve the draft meeting minutes for the August 13, 2024, meeting. All RAC members approved the minutes as prepared for the August 13, 2024, RAC meeting.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

NEW ITEMS

- Draft Annual Report – Mark Bedle presented the draft annual report to the RAC members. He also gave a brief overview of items contained in the report and explained that the annual report will be included in the Winter 2024 Newsletter.
- Winter Newsletter Articles – Mark Bedle discuss the status of the newsletter articles and explained that some standard articles will be used to fill in space. Tara Christman stated that she will pull together an article about benefits of leaving some yard waste on the lawn in the fall.

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EVENT STATUS

2024 Events

- Trunk n' Treat: October 26, 2024. It was discussed and agreed upon to cancel this event. There was a lack of people interested in setting up cars for event.
- Craft Fair: November 9, 2024. Mark Bedle stated that we currently have about 12 vendors for the Craft Fair.
- Community Bonfire: November 23, 2024
- Washington Township Lights Up Flyer. Mark Bedle stated that he is still working on this event flyer.

2025 Events

The following 2025 events were briefly discussed during the meeting, and possibly merging fall invents into the fall festival.

- Plant and Veggie Swap & Farmers Market: Spring (plants) & Summer / Fall (Veggies) 2025
- Trunk n' Treat: October 2025
- Craft Fair: November 2025
- Community Bonfire: November 2025

- Easter: 2025. Members discussed different events including egg hunt and doggie egg hunt.
- Fall Festival: 2025. Chairperson Mark Bedle discussed planning for this event. Mr. Bedle is also in the process of preparing a draft budget for the event. Tara Christmas to give Mark Bedle vendor information for the children play equipment (slide and obstacle course).

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW (THIS WAS A JOINT REVIEW BY EAC & RAC AND WAS COMPLETED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING)

1606 Main Street

- Response Letter- dated September 10, 2024
- Response Letter SDE- see enclosed Ludgate Letter dated September 11, 2024 (rec'd 9/19/2024)
- SDE Review letter- dated June 6, 2024 & September 26, 2024
- LTL Review Letter- dated September 24, 2024
- EBFD Comments- email dated June 6, 2024

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Mark Bedle gave a brief overview of the development plans and answered questions from members about the development. Discussions took place regarding the sidewalk being extended south towards Bally to allow residents access to Bally businesses. Discussion also took place regarding a pedestrian trail being install on the eastern side of the property that is not planned for development. It was agreed upon that Mark Bedle would draft a recommendation letter to both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The recommendations would include the sidewalk extension to Bally and a pedestrian trail in the eastern portion of the parcel. With the sidewalk, appropriate screening should be installed in front of the home that the sidewalk will pass. With the trail, care should be taken to not remove any trees or encroach on the two identified wetlands.

Reserve at Barto

- Response Letter- dated August 14, 2024
- SALDO Waiver Request- dated August 14, 2024
- LTL Review Letter- dated September 18, 2024
- SDE Review letter- September 26, 2024
- EBFD Response- email dated September 18, 2024

Mark Bedle gave a brief overview of the development plans and answered questions from members about the development. Discussions took place regarding historical mining operations beneath and adjacent to the parcel. It was stated that the developer is not offer the Township any open space due to the historical mining operations and the risk of subsidence. Mark Bedle suggested that the RAC should recommend that the developer pay a fee-in-leu of open space and also grant the Township and easement to install a pedestrian trail on the development parcel and the parcel located immediately south of the post office, which is also owned by the developer. Discussion also took place regarding a pedestrian trail being install on the eastern side of the property that is not planned for development. The developer is proposing to install sidewalks along both Old Route 100 and Barto Road. It was agreed upon by the members that sidewalks do not appear to be useful in this area of the Township and that we should recommend that the developer pay a fee-in-leu of the sidewalks. It was agreed upon that Mark Bedle would draft a recommendation letter to both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The recommendations would include the fee-in-leu of sidewalks and a fee-in-leu of open space, combined with an easement to install a pedestrian trail on the two parcels owned by the developer.

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RECREATION FUND & GRANTS

- 2025 Budget Review. Mark Bedle presented the draft budget to the members. There were no comments or suggested changes to the draft budget. Mark Bedle stated that he plans to present a draft 2025 budget to the BOS on the October 10, 2024, meeting.
- Current Grant Status. Mark Bedle gave a brief overview of the status of multiple grants.

OLD ITEMS

- Washington Township Growers Flyer. Mark Bedle stated that there was very little interest in this, with only 4 responses.
- Wetlands Study – Wetland study still being conducted by Kutztown U. students.
- Field Rental Agreements. Mark Bedle stated that they are still being revised for approval by the BOS.
- Parks & Recreation Board Formation Ordinance. Will be presented to the BOS at this month's meeting and hopefully will be approved for public comment.
- Parks & Recreation Rules and Regulations Ordinance. Will be presented to the BOS at this month's meeting and hopefully will be approved for public comment.
- Niantic Road Pedestrian Improvement Project – On hold for funding.
- Current Social Pages' Status and Advertisements – Followers are growing.

BOS RECOMMENDATION LETTERS & REPORTS

- Draft October 2024 RAC Report. All members approved the draft October 2024 RAC Report.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

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The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next RAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mark Bedle and seconded by Tara Christman to adjourn the October 8, 2024, RAC meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark D. Bedle
RAC Secretary