

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mark Bedle called the Washington Township Parks & Recreation Parks (PRB) Meeting to order at 7:00 PM, at the Washington Township Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

The following PRB members were present: Tara Christman, Dwayne Henne, Dave Laxx, Fangyuan Ge and Mark Bedle. Board of Supervisor Romnie Long was present at the meeting. Al Gryga was present from Chester Valley Engineers. One resident was also present at the meeting. Absent Members: None

TAPING OF MEETING

It was noted that the PRB Secretary is keeping a handwritten record of the meeting. Tara Christman, 2216 Old Route 100, Barto, PA 19504, was also noted taping the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

While not discussed during the public comment period, one resident stated later in the meeting that more information about township meetings and projects should be made available on Facebook and not just the website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dwayne Henne and seconded by Dave Laxx to approve the draft meeting minutes for the February 10, 2025, PRB meeting.

Ayes – Dave Laxx, Tara Christman, Fangyuan Ge, Dwayne Henne & Mark Bedle
Nays - None
Abstentions – None

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

NEW BUSINESS

- PRB Communications – Tara Christman stated that multiple residents at the Victory Village development had received letters from the

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2026**

PRB/Township regarding trails in the park. Mark Bedle stated that neither the PRB nor the Township has sent any letters to residents regarding trails in a township park.

- Draft Data Center Ordinance – The draft ordinance was briefly discussed; however, it was agreed upon that the PRB would wait until the revisions requested by the Planning Commission are completed before the PRB would provide comments on the draft ordinance.
- Summer Newsletter Articles – Mark Bedle requested any ideas for articles in the township newsletter. The deadline for submission is approximately April 15, 2026.

EVENT STATUS

- 2026 Event Planning & Schedule – Tara Christman stated that she will be setting up a meeting with other PRB members to discuss the Easter Egg Hunt. Mark Bedle discussed the spring plant sale, that would occur on May 2 & 9, 2026, with BOS approval. All members were in favor of having the plant sale.

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW

None

RECREATION FUND & GRANTS

- Special Committee – Budgets – Tara Christman is currently working on pulling together budget summaries.
- Current Grant Status – The current grant status spreadsheet was provided to the members.

OLD BUSINESS

- Colebrookdale Rail-to-Trail – No Action
- Edison Walk Trail Easement – No Action
- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance – Mark Bedle stated that he is still working on a copy of the ordinance with tracked changes for the PRB's review. Tara Christman discussed talking to Berks Nature and possibly having them attend one of our meetings. It was agreed to have Berks Nature attend a meeting in approximately 3 months. Tara Christman also mentioned that Natural Lands would like to do more in Berks County.
- BCP – Barto Reserve/Aqua PA Trail Easement – Mark Bedle stated that the Solicitor is working with the developer to pull the blanket trail easement.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2026**

- BCP – Kiosk Replacement Project – Mark Bedle stated that the scout is currently working on this project.
- BCP – Barto Trail Replacement – Mark Bedle stated that this project would most likely occur in 2027, pending grant funding.
- BCP – Meadowbrook Connector Trail Project – Mark Bedle stated that this project would most likely be completed this summer.
- BCP – Master Plan Project – Mark Bedle stated that the kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 7:00pm. Tara Christman requested that we confirm with Sue Brown that this meeting was advertised. It was agreed upon that a meeting flyer should be put in the lobby and on the Facebook page.
- WTP – Playground Replacement Project – Al Gryga discussed the overall project and the DCNR C2P2 grant sketch plan purpose. Tara Christman raised concerns with moving forward with the DCNR C2P2 grant application, including no guarantee we will get the grant, a master plan is not in place for the park, we should go after an LSA grant instead, potentially cut back the SOW for the 200K LSA grant, and an overall dissatisfaction with the speed at which park projects are happening. She also expressed her concern with not having any public input on the sketch plan. Tara Christman made a motion to use the \$200,000 LSA grant award, reduce the SOW and move forward with the playground project. The motion did not receive a second. Dwayne Henne made a motion to recommend to the BOS to move forward with the DCNR C2P2 grant application and engage Chester Valley Engineers to complete the sketch plan. Dave Laxx seconded the motion. Ayes – Dave Laxx, Fangyuan Ge, Dwayne Henne & Mark Bedle, Nays - Tara Christman, Abstentions – None. Mark Bedle stated that the PRB will make sure to involve the public with the final design of the playground. Mark Bedle also stated that a DCNR site meeting was scheduled for March 16, 2026, at the WTP. Tara Christman asked Mark Bedle if he had a conflict of interest with voting to use Chester Valley Engineers, to which Mark Bedle stated none.
- WTP - Niantic Road Pedestrian Improvement Project - Mark Bedle gave a brief updated on the project to the PRB members.
- WTP - Wetlands Study – No Action
- WTP – Master Plan Project – No Action
- Current Social Pages’ Status and Advertisements – No Action

BOS REPORTS & RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Draft March 26, 2026, Parks & Recreation Board Report. A copy of the Draft March 26, 2026, PRB report was not included in the agenda package. Mark Bedle stated that he will email a draft copy of the report for comments by the PRB members.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2026**

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Barto Community Park Master Plan Study Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Board of Supervisors workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. and the next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026 (this date was corrected during the meeting), at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Environmental Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next PRB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Laxx and seconded by Dwyane Henne to adjourn the March 10, 2026, PRB meeting at 8:25 pm. All members agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark D. Bedle
PRB Secretary