

Pocono Township Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2015

Members Present: Charlie Trapasso; President, Bobby Felins, Jennifer Fisher, Mary Riley Frantz

Call to Order: Charlie at 7:32am

Also Present: Gregg Schuster; Pocono Township Manager, Jerry Lastowski; PT Commissioner, Jeff Clapper; Public Works Director, Dean Hartshorn; Park Director

Absent: Jim Olizarowicz, Alex Grum and Denise Herbert; Secretary.

Quorum established. Approval of September Minutes: Motion made by Charlie seconded by Bobby.

Pocono Township Manager:

Gregg informed the committee that the HJP 2016 funds/payment issue was resolved. Jackson and Hamilton Township agreed not to seek additional funds from PT. In turn Gregg advised them that we would be happy to discuss other joint opportunities should they arise in the future. Jerry Lastowski contacted representatives of Jackson Township & was surprised they rejected the dirt/fill offered by our township.

CIP/Park Fund combines several funds to make it all easier to manage from an accounting perspective. Gregg advised we should not worry about spending the remaining \$200,000 in the park fund since the funds can only be used by the park for park purchases. He suggested the committee give thought to investing in future project(s). Jeff suggests we develop a 5 or 10 year plan aka "wish list" so that we can be more in line with the township's scheduling of projects which in turn will create more timely projects on the calendar or at least get approved even if projects get moved around a bit based on needs of the township.

Greg spoke about the opportunity for grants however the application process is timely and requires staffing. Charlie suggested we consider applying for walking trails, additional park land, etc. and Greg suggested we work with the Monroe County Planning Commission and revise the existing HJP Regional Plan to include an updated Recreation Plan specific to Pocono Township.

Public Works:

Previously selected playground equipment has been removed and the 4 new playground pieces will be installed as soon as the installer can fit us in his schedule. Although it is not currently on the project list for 2016, Jeff discussed the prospect of paving the lower parking lot adjacent to the existing Community Center in time for the Bicentennial Project. An engineering plan is needed to ensure the project is done correctly and with the least amount of land disturbance possible. With 30 miles of roads in PT, Jeff stated he is currently planning and prioritizing road projects within the township. Although he is dealing with a limited staff, the prospect of tarring & chipping MVP roads and parking lot is being considered.

Charlie inquired about the status of the septic at MVP as it pertains to the Heritage Center. Jeff stated it was up to standard and could handle the additional capacity.

Gypsy Moth spraying would also be included in the Capital fund.

Capital Improvement Plan:

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the CIP and how it pertains to parks & recreation. Charlie requested the committee be included in decisions pertaining to the park and expressed concern over the disconnect in communication. A detailed inventory of township assets and life expectancy is in progress and will be placed in a Matrix. Considering the tennis courts haven't been resurfaced in over 10 years, it is likely the CIP will include resurfacing of the tennis & basketball courts as well as the purchase of additional play equipment pieces. Jeff will be submitting the 5to10 year Capital Fund by the end of September. The start & finish of road projects are normally scheduled when school buses are off the road.

The planning of the intersection of 715 & 611 has been a topic of conversation for years. Reconstruction of the Tannersville exit is slated for 2019-2020 however Penn Dot has not defined that project. The outcome of the TLC field remains uncertain.

Park Director:

Dean mentioned closing the park shortly after the election on Nov 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40am. Next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2015 at the POCONO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING