

**MORRIS TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 8, 2018**

Bill Foelsch opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Bill Foelsch, Director, Peter Mancuso, Mayor, Casey Becht, Barbara Byrnes, Brian Goss, Louise Johnson, Sam Pagano, Ed Thornton, Rick Watson. Also attending were Parks and Recreation Dept. staff members Alexis Piombino and Samantha Hartman

Township Committee member Cathy Wilson attended as a guest.

Minutes of December 7, 2017 were approved.

2018 Committee Member Roster was reviewed.

Colonials Junior Lacrosse Presentation: Matt Wendorff, lacrosse representative, described the lacrosse program offered to Morris Township, Morristown, and Morris Plains girls and boys. Participation is approximately 450 children with multiple teams, winter training programs, clinics, and a travel team. The season starts in March through Memorial Day. Matt explained that their biggest challenge is for more fields and fields with lights. Bill Foelsch explained that the construction of Cornine Field with lights will offer one solution for the 2019 lacrosse season.

Morris United Soccer Club: Casey Becht, United soccer representative, described this soccer club as a 501c3 charity providing youth soccer to approximately 2000 Morris Township, Morristown, and Morris Plains children with 200 volunteers. The 3 levels of soccer offered include: recreation, travel, and academy travel supporting 150 teams. A new winter program called Futsal, a variation of soccer with a harder ball, was introduced for developing soccer skills in the off season. United Soccer is exploring developing a special needs program.

For a variety of reasons, United Soccer has a field shortage that has placed a greater demand on existing fields. The club would be interested in additional turf fields, small sided turf fields, outdoor Futsal facilities, field access on the eastern side of the Township, and assisting with improving existing fields. Besides the construction of Cornine Field, Bill Foelsch suggested that the future development of a field on the former Honeywell property may offer some relief to the field shortage.

Public Comment Collinsville Playgrounds: (11 representatives in attendance)

Pamela Watson, long time Collinsville resident, provided some history about the playground and the ongoing request for it to be redeveloped including a water feature. She also requested that the playground have more regular cleanups and that the basketball courts be resurfaced. Bill Foelsch explained that the existing playground equipment has recently been removed and the slope regraded in preparation for the installation of the new equipment. This equipment purchased by the Township consists of play equipment suitable for young children and separate equipment for older children. The replacement of the spray playground originally planned was cancelled in 2010 due to the economic downturn. A vacant lot addition to Tucker Field on Cedar Street has been cleared by the Parks Division and is being developed into a community pollinator garden by the Unity Charter School. Collinsville residents will be invited to participate in the planting of that garden. Some complaints were made about the summer playground program counselors, supplies, and attendance history. Peter Mancuso requested that the residents of Collinsville prepare for a separate meeting for the purpose of presenting their ideas for improving the Collinsville recreation area.

Eagle Scout Candidate Projects: There are 5 candidates with approved projects planned for various Township locations. These include the development of directional signs and kiosks, a pollinator meadow at the Baker-Evans Farm, a picnic area at ValleVue Preserve, and new loop trails at the Jones Woods/Jones Pond area..

Fall/Winter Program Report: Alexis Piombino reviewed the recent report. The Holiday Lights Tour was very popular with 2 buses and 110 attendees. The adult sports and exercise programs are popular and well attended. The programs for children are popular and the receipts are exceeding last year's total.

Spring/Summer Plans: The brochure is being prepared for the printer and should be on-line by 4/1. Additional sports classes for children are being added, Engineering for Kids program, and 2 Yankee game bus trips 5/29 and 7/27. On 3/14 the Township will host a Rutgers Coaches Safety Clinic. The summer playground program is scheduled to begin on 6/25. The Senior Club membership is 250 members with monthly meetings at Washington Valley Chapel, various classes, games, and reading circle at the Township Senior room. The summer Tuesday night concerts and Wednesday night movies are being planned.

Miscellaneous:

-ValleVue Preserve Community Garden has all 110 plots reserved for this season.

-Cornine Field redevelopment - notice to proceed is expected on 2/12. It will take 120 days to construct with a large excavation project for the landfill closure plan and the overlaying synthetic turf field.

-Cornine Field Use Guidelines - Bill Foelsch handed out a draft of the guidelines, asking for the committee to review and provide comments/suggestions.

-Jockey Hollow Top Loop Trail and the Bluegate Farm Preserve Connector Trail have been approved for construction grants from the Morris County Trails Construction Grant Program.

-Parks Capital Project Plan Summary - Bill Foelsch provided a handout listing the 2018 capital projects for the committee's review.

The next meeting will be a park tour on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrnes

COLLINSVILLE Representatives in Attendance:

Jaraun Wright
Kristina Rookwood
Betty McKay
Pamela S Watson
Cookie Davidsen
Cecile Kent
Lee Goldley
Richard Alston
Jeannie McKay
Cindy Marcia
Marjorie Lyon