

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
RECREATION BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman Tony Borger called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Recreation Board members answered roll call: Tony Borger, Robert Cornman, and Roy Bellis. Alex Borger was excused from attending the meeting.

Also present were Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, and Board of Supervisors liaison to the Recreation Board, Glenn Borger.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: Motion was made by Robert Cornman and seconded by Roy Bellis to approve the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved 3-0.

II. NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

A. POSSIBLE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – COMMUNITY PARK

Graham Rose was in attendance to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout Project; as such, this item was moved onto the official agenda. Mr. Rose reviewed options for picnic tables, surface materials, trail markers and trash receptacles with the members of the Recreation Board for his proposed project, which is to place a picnic area along the portion of the extended walking path located at Community Park. The following is a summary of the presentation given by Mr. Graham, as well as the recommendations and direction that the Recreation Board members provided to Mr. Graham.

Picnic Tables: The picnic tables will be made of a maintenance-free, recycled plastic material. Mr. Rose provided picnic table design options for the consideration of the Recreation Board, including hexagonal, traditional rectangular, and square configurations. Mr. Petrucci indicated that at least one of the tables should provide an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) feature-typically, an area of the table that is able to be moved aside and will allow for the ease of access of wheelchairs or other similar devices.

ACTION: Motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Roy Bellis to confirm the preference of the Township to utilize a hexagonal picnic table shape with a 6' diameter, with at least one ADA-compliant table to be utilized. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Tony Borger, asked

if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. **The motion was approved. Vote 3-0.**

Surface Materials: Mr. Rose inquired with the Township as to whether rubber mulch, woodchip mulch, or gravel surfacing would be preferred for the picnic table surfacing. It was stated that gravel would present maintenance issues, and that the Township typically uses certified playground wood mulch for these types of installations. Compacted, the mulch is ADA-compliant. It was stated that in order to get a decent amount of mulch material, at least 6” should be placed down.

It was also noted that the mulch area should either be adjacent to the walking path or have an accessible path leading directly from the existing walking path in accordance with ADA requirements. Mr. Rose indicated that it was his preference to place the mulch area directly in line with the walking path, thereby eliminating the need for an additional accessible path.

ACTION: Motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Roy Bellis to confirm the use of certified playground mulch at the picnic table location. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Tony Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. **The motion was approved. Vote 3-0.**

Trail Markers: 6’ high vertical trail markers were reviewed with the Recreation Board members. Both options for trail markers would allow for each side of the markers to show the mile markers in both directions. It was the expressed sentiment of the Recreation Board that the increments of the mile markers should be every quarter mile, as suggested by Mr. Rose.

Mr. Petrucci provided Mr. Rose with the contact information for Claire Sadler, who is the Director of Trails & Conservation for the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. (D&L), in order to ascertain whether or not Ms. Sadler would have any suggestions for the design nomenclature for the trail markers or if the D&L, or if there were any extra trail markers available. Mr. Rose will follow up with Ms. Sadler, as directed.

Trash Receptacles: Mr. Rose reported that the trail receptacles that the Township had placed out on the walking path extension as part of a Northampton County Open Space Initiative Grant were no longer available from Rubbermaid/Veritiv. He presented a similar receptacle to the Recreation Board members, but it only comes in a black color. Mr. Rose was directed to provide the Recreation Board with a similar trash receptacle in the same color that was on the new walking path extension, which is bronze.

B. FIELD USAGE WEATHER-RELATED CLOSURE AND NOTIFICATION POLICY

In accordance with discussion that took place during the Tuesday, July 8, 2019 Recreation Board meeting, Township Manager reviewed suggestions for incorporating a procedure for limiting field usage during rain events. Mr. Petrucci’s recommendations were provided as follows:

The Township could use the Slate Belt Regional Police Department’s NIXLE alert system to create a private notification group consisting of the emails and phone numbers of coaches and

participants. NIXLE would allow one notification alert to be sent via text message/email for those individuals who sign up to receive them. The Township could request that users of the field who have indicated they are the responsible parties (and any additional identified individuals) to sign up to receive NIXLE alerts.

As for the Field Usage Weather-Related Closure and Notification Policy, I believe that tracking rain volume amounts is too cumbersome to enforce and too easily disputed by other parties depending on what instrument or weather service they are viewing. The policy should be simply construed to set forth the following provisions and could be placed directly on the field usage form:

1). Field closures may be determined by Plainfield Township at any time as conditions change. Use of the field is under the authority of Plainfield Township, and the decision to close the field is at the sole discretion of representatives of Plainfield Township.

2). Plainfield Township will endeavor to make decisions for all closures and notify all relevant parties by 12:00 PM Noon on weekdays and by late Friday afternoons prior to the weekend. Plainfield Township reserves the right to close the fields, with or without prior notice, in the best interests of Plainfield Township.

3). Closing or opening notices shall remain in effect until an updated notice is sent. Notices may not be sent on a regular basis.

4). The penalties for violation would include suspension and/or revocation of the field usage permit.

ACTION: Motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Roy Bellis to move the proposed Field Usage Weather-Related Closure and Notification Policy and corresponding signage (identified below) forward to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration to implement.



Prior to the vote, Chairman, Tony Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. **The motion was approved. Vote 3-0.**

C. INTERCONNECTED LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

Chairman Tony Borger had previously inquired whether or not it was feasible to incorporate possible connections to existing parks and the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail within future development. Township Manager Petrucci indicated that the following steps should be reviewed in order to take on a project of this scope:

- a. Plainfield Township would first need to develop a “Plainfield Township Trail and Bicycle Master Site Plan” in accordance with approved Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) requirements- including, but not limited to, the solicitation of public feedback and participation, identifying future costs/implementation requirements, and setting forth all future maintenance and operations costs once partial and complete buildout is finished.*
- b. Incorporate the specific recommended interconnected trail network mapping identified within a to-be-developed “Plainfield Township Trail and Bicycle Master Site Plan” into the Official Map of the Township, as amended.*
- c. Require trails that connect to the existing trail network as part of the development process and incorporate these requirements directly into the SALDO.*
- d. Acquire necessary right-of-way, as needed.*
- e. Identify and/or secure funding sources, including, but not limited to, private funds through development and open space earned income tax funding.*
- f. Design and engineering; permitting and construction (including NPDES requirements).*

Mr. Cornman stated that the Township must consider the fact that farms that have undergone farmland preservation within the Township would not allow for any development- including trail development and connections. He suggested that in order to adequately review the areas for possible connections, the Township must first review mapping that shows all existing trails, parks, preserved farms, and areas that could be preserved. The members of the Recreation Board strongly concurred with this sentiment, and Mr. Petrucci will provide that information to the Recreation Board for their review.

Following the review of the necessary data that shows the requested mapped areas, the Recreation Board will determine whether it is appropriate to make a formal recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, up to and including the recommendation to develop a “Plainfield Township Trail and Bicycle Master Site Plan”, as identified above.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT- AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no members of the public in attendance during the August 6, 2019 Recreation Board meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Recreation Board, a motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Roy Bellis to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci
Township Manager
Secretary to Recreation Board