

West Goshen Township  
Park and Recreation Board  
January 18, 2023

**Attending:** Eunice Alexander, Allison Bonjo, Bob Cifone, Mike Pillagalli, Nancy Pine, and Ed Smith

**Township Representatives:** Chris Bashore, Ashley Gagné, Tinamarie Smith, Dave Woodward, Ken Lehr, Tom Steines, and Dorine McClune

**Public Representatives:** Colin Rodriquez, Bobby Rodriquez, and José Barrera from Boy Scout Troop 149 and Douglas White

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by outgoing chair Bob Cifone.

This meeting was advertised in The Daily Local News on December 19, 2022.

This meeting agenda was posted on the West Goshen Township website and at the Township Building on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ken Lehr indicated the first order of business is to nominate and approve a new slate of officers for 2023. Ken Lehr indicated at the November 2022 Park and Recreation Board meeting, nominations were discussed and Jerry Napiecek, Allison Bonjo, and Ed Smith expressed a willingness to serve a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary respectively. On a motion by Bob Cifone and seconded by Nancy Pine, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously approved this new slate of officers for 2023.

Minutes from the November 14, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Mike Pillagalli and seconded by Bob Cifone.

The Treasury Report for December 31, 2022 was reviewed without discussion or questions.

On a motion by Bob Cifone and seconded by Nancy Pine, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously approved adding “Presentation for proposed Eagle Scout project by Colin Rodriquez” as item #4 on the agenda for the January 18, 2023 meeting. An updated version of the meeting agenda will be posted on the West Goshen Township website Thursday, January 19, 2023.

**Presentation for Proposed Eagle Scout Project:** Colin Rodriquez, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 149 gave a presentation on his proposed Eagle Scout project. The project entails rehabbing the basketball court at South Concord Road Park. Colin Rodriquez estimates the project can be completed in two days. On Day 1, the old basketball rim will be removed and the existing backboard sanded in preparation for repainting. The old wood from the existing bench will also be replaced and blowers will be utilized to clean the dirt and debris from the court. Finally, caution fencing will be added around the perimeter of the basketball court to protect the work area. On Day 2, the backboard will be repainted and seal coating applied to the paved areas of the basketball court to fill cracks and smooth the surface. The caution fencing will remain for 48 hours to allow the seal coating the required drying time. Dorine McClune indicated the Parks Crew will replace the old basketball rim with a new one as

part of this effort. The members of the Park and Recreation Board and Dorine McClune expressed their approval to move forward with this Eagle Scout project.

**Parks Department:** Dorine McClune reported the parks crew has been busy with normal winter maintenance including sanding and painting trash cans and grills from various Township parks. Additionally, the parks crew has been busy resurfacing some of the Township picnic tables. Dorine McClune indicated a new bin for storing *Diamond-Tex* has been completed at the Cloud Park Little League field. Dorine McClune reported the new Tot Lot ordered to replace the existing structure at Cloud Park has not arrived yet. Delivery of this new play structure is now expected in the Spring.

**Summer Recreation Program:** Tom Steines reporting on the Summer Recreation Program informed he has started the process of recruiting counselors and junior counselors for this year's program. Additionally, Tom Steines indicated he is starting to line up field trips. Tom Steines notes parents he has spoken with are very excited about this year's program. Tom Steines noted the Township's new registration software will be utilized for this year's program. The 2023 Summer Recreation Program is scheduled to begin on June 20<sup>th</sup> and run through August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Teen Program:** Tom Steines reporting on the Summer Teen Program indicated he has started the process of identifying opportunities for the Community Service Projects that will be part of this year's program. Tom Steines noted the Township's new registration software will be utilized for this year's program. The 2023 Teen Program is scheduled to begin on June 20<sup>th</sup> and run through August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Friends of West Goshen Parks:** Ken Lehr reporting for the Friends of West Goshen Parks informed their Board of Directors meeting originally scheduled for Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**Old Business:** Ken Lehr reporting on 2022 Bus Trips informed Bus Trip Surveys for the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the August 14<sup>th</sup> Citi Field trip, the November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Radio City Music Hall, and the December 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to New York were included in the Park and Recreation Board packets. Ken Lehr noted all the trips went well but informed there was dissatisfaction noted on the November 19<sup>th</sup> Radio City Music Hall trip with the service provided by the Stardust Diner. Ken Lehr informed a decision to switch restaurants for this trip from Carmine's to the Stardust Diner was a result of pricing at Carmine's doubling in the past couple of years. Ken Lehr indicated he would look at other dining options for 2023 New York trips noting the Township will go back to Carmine's for the March 29<sup>th</sup> trip to see "Bad Cinderella" and to Gossip for the May 17<sup>th</sup> trip to see "Hamilton". Ken Lehr reported the Fall Bus trips are set and that he is still working on finalizing the details for the Summer Bus Trips. Finally, Ken Lehr indicated the Township may look at offering a trip to the Meadowlands to see the Eagles play the Jets in the Fall.

Ken Lehr reporting on the Holiday Breakfast informed 150 people attended the December 17<sup>th</sup> event at Timothy's noting everyone had a good time. The members of the Park and Recreation Board offered thanks to Santa (Bob Cifone), Mrs. Clause (Mary Lou Enoches) and Santa's Elf (Allison Bonjo) for their efforts that helped make this year's event a success. Ken Lehr informed Timothy's has a capacity of 220 people and indicated a second seating is available if registrations reach that level. Finally, Ken Lehr indicated the Township will purchase a second Kodak camera that will help reduce the wait times for the commemorative pictures and frames offered for the first time at this year's event.

Ken Lehr reporting on the Holiday Decorations Workshop said the Township offered three successful nights of crafts for the holidays. Due to demand, two sessions were offered on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>. All six sessions were filled. The members of the Park and Recreation Board offered thanks to Kelly Cifone and Allison Bonjo for their part in this very popular annual event. Ken Lehr noted that 2022 was the 25<sup>th</sup> year Kelly Cifone has guided/instructed the Holiday Decorations Workshop. Chris Bashore stated he has received a lot of positive feedback on the Township's Holiday Decorations Workshop.

Ken Lehr reporting on the new gazebo at Community Park informed that the gazebo arrived on November 10<sup>th</sup> and was installed at the Community Park in one day. The plan is to have the 'J. Arnold Bair Gazebo' plaque from the original gazebo restored onto the new gazebo. Additionally, the Township is planning to have some type of re-dedication ceremony in the spring timeframe. Ken Lehr noted the Township would invite Les Bair and Kelly Cifone to the re-dedication ceremonies. The members of the Park and Recreation Board recommended having the re-dedication on a Thursday or Friday in the early spring and agreed that Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM would be an acceptable date for the ceremonies. Ken Lehr indicated he would run this option by the Friends to make sure they were in agreement with a March 31<sup>st</sup> date.

Ken Lehr reporting on the 2023 Summer Concert Series informed he has lined up the Cool Beans Band for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Children's concert, the Greaseband for the June 25<sup>th</sup> Party Band concert, La Tierra Caliente for the July 9<sup>th</sup> Latin America concert and Blue Philly Magic for the August 20<sup>th</sup> Motown concert. Ashley Gagné asked what happens when there is inclement weather on the night of the concert. Ken Lehr informed that in the event of rain, the concert is moved to the pre-determined rain site. The rain site has been either East High School or Fugett Middle School with the exception of 2021 when Asplundh Concert Hall at West Chester University served as the rainsite. Ken Lehr noted that when concerts are moved to the rain site, attendance is roughly only one quarter or less than it would have been if the concert were held outside at the Community Park Amphitheater. Ken Lehr indicated the average cost of entertainment for the Summer Concert series is roughly \$1,500, and stated the bands are paid the same amount regardless of whether the concert is held at the Community Park or the rain site. Ashley Gagné expressed concern the Township is paying full price for the entertainment when the concert is moved inside. Ashley Gagné asked if the Township provides any food options at the concerts. Ken Lehr reported he did line up a food truck for one of the 2022 concerts and indicated we was planning to have food vendors at more of the concerts this year if he can find them. Eunice Alexander asked if the Township should consider having a vendor fee for the vendors that sell food and beverages at the Summer Concert Series

Ken Lehr reporting on the Registration software initiative informed the new software should be ready in the early February timeframe. Ken Lehr informed that he along with Tom Steines would be setting up the Summer Recreation and Bus Trip information on the new site.

Chris Bashore reporting on the Park Improvements Planning and Splashpad initiative informed the Township has submitted an application for grant funding to DCNR (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) that would help with the cost of the Community Park Phase 1 initiatives. This phase includes bathroom facility updates including a family bathroom addition, basketball courts improvements and tennis courts drainage improvements. Chris Bashore indicated the Township was informed last week that DCNR did not approve the grant funding request. At this time

the Township will look for other grant funding options and determine the next steps once a source of grant funding is approved. Nancy Pine asked what is the cost of the Splashpad portion of the project. Chris Bashore informed the cost is roughly \$600,000 and the cost of the entire project is roughly \$1,000,000. Chris Bashore noted if grant funding can be obtained, the Township would need to utilize these funds within three years from the time the grant is awarded.

Ken Lehr reporting on the dogpark and skatepark informed there were no updates to report at this time.

Eunice Alexander reporting on the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT) informed one of the trees located near the Community Park sign appears to have been vandalized. Eunice Alexander indicated the tree is very wobbly and stated she tried to stabilize the tree, and indicated she would check back to see if any additional maintenance is required. Eunice Alexander asked when the Township is planning to take down the hazardous ash trees at Coopersmith Park. Dorine McClune reported the Township is waiting for the bids to come in on the project. Dave Woodward informed the Township is looking at the March timeframe for this work.

**New Business:** Chris Bashore reporting on the Arbor Day planting at Hamlet Crest Park informed West Goshen Township is designated a “Tree City” Township. Each year, a re-applying and holding an Arbor Day event is a requirement to maintain this designation. A subcommittee of Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) members (Barbara Reinhart, Scott deLone and Susan Charkes), Tree Tenders, and Board of Supervisor liaisons Ashley Gagné and Tinamarie Smith met periodically to discuss various sustainability projects. Dorine McClune and Dave Woodward identified Hamlet Crest Park, Coopersmith Park and Fresh Meadows Park as viable options for a tree planting project. Hamlet Crest Park was chosen to be part of this year’s Arbor Day activities. The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) has Saturday, April 29 designated as Arbor Day for West Goshen Township. Arbor Day festivities will include a tree planting at Hamlet Crest Park from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Approximately 140 trees/shrubs that include 40 overstory trees, 40 understory trees and 40 shrubs will be planted during this first stage of the “reforestation” efforts at Hamlet Crest Park. All trees and shrubs will be donated by Keystone 10 Million program. Ashley Gagné stated the plan is to recruit help from the local student population informing a member of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) Scott deLone is a teacher at Henderson High School. Tinamarie Smith indicated volunteers are also required to help water the new plantings weekly for about three years suggesting SignUpGenius could help organize this effort. Dave Woodward suggested utilizing one of the Township’s 270-gallon brine tanks filled with water near the planting site to help with the watering efforts. Dave Woodward stated he could have someone from the Township fill the brine tank with water weekly. Allison Bonjo asked if this project is large enough to warrant the Township soliciting approval from the local residents. Chris Bashore indicated he thought it would be a good idea to contact neighbors of Hamlet Crest Park to inform them of the planned Arbor Day activities. Eunice Alexander stated it is good to get the neighbors engaged from an educational standpoint as well. Douglas White asked if there was any type of spray that could be used to keep the deer from eating the new plantings. Tree Guards will be utilized to minimize damage from the deer population. Eunice Alexander asked Dorine McClune if the Township would need to mow that area around the fencing that will surround the planting area. Dorine McClune stated the plant density should be enough so mowing should not be required. Douglas White suggested providing trees to local residents so they can plant them as well. On a motion by Mike

Pillagalli and seconded by Bob Cifone, the Park and Recreation Board gave their unanimous approval for the Hamlet Crest Tree Planting project.

Township resident Timothy McNally addressed the members of the Park and Recreation Board expressing his interest in becoming a member of the Board. Timothy McNally has been a resident of West Goshen Township since 1977 with 50 years of construction experience. Additionally, Timothy McNally is a retired IBEW electrician with 30 years' experience in project management. On a motion by Bob Cifone and seconded by Nancy Pine, the Park and Recreation Board gave their unanimous approval to have Timothy McNally be considered for the open Alternate Park and Recreation Board position upon approval by the Township Supervisors.

Ken Lehr indicated he would like to extend an invitation to the Board of Supervisors and Friends of West Goshen Parks to join the Park and Recreation Board on a tour of the current and future Township Parks sometime in the late spring timeframe. The members of the Park and Recreation Board indicated a date in early May that is not on a Friday would be preferred.

Chris Bashore offered congratulations to Ken Lehr informing three of the photographs he submitted for the PSATS (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors) 2023 calendar were chosen. Ken Lehr's photos appear on the months of January, February, and October of the new calendar.

Douglas White asked if there was any update on the Township's plan to offer a full day Summer Camp program. Ken Lehr indicated the Township is waiting for the first phase of the Park Improvement project to be completed before moving forward with a full day Summer Recreation Program.

Dorine McClune reported she had received a request from West Side Little League for permission to construct a temporary batting cage at Community Park. Dorine McClune indicated she was against this request stating it would be hard to maintain the areas around the batting cage and expressed concern the structure would kill the grass underneath it. On a motion by Mike Pillagalli and seconded by Bob Cifone, the Park and Recreation Board denied approval for this request.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Pillagalli and seconded by Bob Cifone to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward T Smith