

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2011

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on March 8, 2011. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Patricia Bunn, Secretary (left meeting in progress)  
Dave Gordon, Member (joined meeting in progress)  
Dennis Wysocki, Member

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
Donna Liney, Park & Recreation Director  
Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison (joined meeting in progress)

Absent: Henry Carpenter, Park & Rec Vice Chairman  
Fran McDonald, Member  
Andrew Newbon, Member

DISCUSSION OF MEMORIAL PARK ARBORETUM PLANTING

Ms. Bunn introduced the leader and Girl Scouts from Troop No. 21133. She stated they are in the process of earning their Bronze Award which is a significant award and involves a lot of hours of community service. She reviewed work they have done in the past for the National Park Service designing and planting a planting bed at Independence Mall. She stated they placed second Nationwide for this project. Ms. Bunn stated when the opportunity came up to plant trees at Memorial Park, she advised the Township that the Troop would be interested in working on this project.

The Scouts present read essays about projects they have done in the past and indicating that they are interested in working on this project for the Township so that they can earn their Bronze Award.

Mr. Maloney joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fritchey thanked the Scouts for their offer of working on this project and stated he feels they will do an excellent job and are very well qualified to do this project.

## FIVE MILE WOODS PRESERVE ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. John Heilferty, Naturalist, was present with Mr. John Lloyd and Ms. Jan MacFarland of the Friends of the Five Mile Woods. Mr. Heilferty thanked Ms. Liney and her staff for their continued support. He stated they also work with the Friends of the Five Mile Woods. Mr. Lloyd, Chair of the Friends of Five Mile Woods, stated the Friends hold monthly work days the second Saturday from March until November working on trail and building maintenance. He stated they also hold two Open House events one of which is held around Earth Day, and this year it will be April 17. He stated it will be held from Noon until 3:00 p.m. and they will give guided walks in the Woods, have displays, and will provide refreshments. He stated the fall Open House Event will be held October 9. Mr. Lloyd stated they also involve students in their work days, and Ms. McFarland has reached out to the Pennsbury National Honor Society students who volunteer at the Woods in order to help them earn service hours.

Mr. Heilferty stated since the beginning when the Township acquired the Preserve, the Township has benefited from the volunteer efforts of the Friends and especially during these difficult economic times. Mr. Heilferty stated the Friends have facilitated the property being the success that it is and being as affordable to manage as it is today.

Mr. Lloyd stated this Sunday they will hold a maple syrup demonstration at the Woods, and last year for this event they had over 100 people attend. Mr. Heilferty stated he continues to work with the Frog Squad, and frog walks will be scheduled which are open to the public. Mr. Heilferty stated Ms. Liney is also helping them schedule the Roving Nature Center which is an eight-week summer camp program.

Mr. Heilferty stated he works full-time for the DEP, and since his schedule has changed the hours he has to work at the Five Mile Woods will change; but he does not feel services will go undone.

Mr. Heilferty stated they continue to be interested in any advancement that can be made in acquiring the Foulds Tract if it becomes available.

Mr. Heilferty stated he has no major projects planned and some work has been put off in the interest of not spending money. He stated he would like to replace some windows which are no longer working properly. He stated the restrooms also need painting and the carpet in the office needs to be replaced. He will work with Ms. Liney on some of these projects, and hopefully they will be able to do this in-house and fund it as the Budget allows. Mr. Fedorchak asked if the Roving Nature Center uses the office, and

Mr. Heilferty stated they do. Mr. Fedorchak asked if it is used other than in the summer, and Mr. Heilferty stated they use it for the Open House events, the meetings of the Friends of the Five Mile Woods, and it is sometimes used by Scout groups. He stated all of the equipment is now thirty years old, and it has been well used. Mr. Lloyd stated it is not air conditioned so in the summer it is important to have windows that they can open.

Mr. Heilferty stated the deer problem still needs to be addressed. He stated this year it was an archery effort, and he feels it is unfortunate that they do not have the funds to have a sharp shoot which he feels is the only way the problem can be solved in the Five Mile Woods. He stated on other small sites, the archery efforts may be successful. He stated the archery efforts were limited to a few weeks this year in the Five Mile Woods. Mr. Heilferty stated he feels it was good that the Woods was not hunted for a significant period of time since of all the properties enrolled in the Deer Management Program, this is the only one that is a public, open property which is meant to be utilized by the public; and he feels minimizing the footprint that a Deer Management Program has on the need to close the Woods is desirable. He stated the downside is that if you are not hunting the property, you are not removing deer, and this year they only removed eleven deer.

Mr. Fedorchak asked about the exclosures; and Mr. Heilferty stated Mr. Shissler had suggested that they erect some additional exclosures in the Woods in order to document the progress of the deer management efforts, but they did not contract with anyone to do this as yet. He stated they did contract with Bowman's Hill to do a plant stewardship index review, and they created plant survey plots at sixteen locations where they did an inventory for a ten meter square area counting the flowers and plants. He stated ongoing they will be able to measure the impact. He stated they it has taken the area inside the existing exclosures over five years to show that there were measurable differences.

Mr. Fritchey stated if after two years of the deer management program they do not see any measurable difference on the flora being able to regenerate, they may need to reconsider their efforts.

Mr. Fedorchak stated the sharp shoot program included sites other than the Five Mile Woods, and perhaps they need to look at just the Five Mile Woods having a sharp shoot, and the cost for that may be more acceptable to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Heilferty stated the archers were very professional and there were no safety problems; but he does not feel an archery program is appropriate for the Five Mile Woods unless they were to completely close the Preserve for the entire deer season from September to the end of January and allow bow hunting that entire time, and he does not recommend this because this is the not purpose of that property. Mr. Heilferty stated he would prefer finding a local contractor who would do a sharp shoot just for the Five Mile Woods.

Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels it would be a good idea to meet with all of the property owners surrounding the Five Mile Woods to discuss this issue.

Mr. Gordon joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Heilferty and the Friends were thanked by the Park & Recreation Board for their efforts.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wysocki moved, Mr. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of February, 2011 as written.

Ms. Bunn left the meeting at this time.

#### SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Maloney stated the Board of Supervisors is going to discuss the fund transfer at a June meeting.

Mr. Maloney stated they are still waiting to hear about the State Grant for the recreation project. He stated Mr. Santarsiero is scheduled to be at the next Board of Supervisors meeting, and they hope to hear something at that time. He stated with regard to the Community Center, they are still waiting to hear from the State about this Grant as well. He stated Mr. Cruzan was to report back on March 2 about his proposal, but he did not provide an update. Mr. Maloney stated they gave him an additional month to see if he can work something out with Toll Bros, and they should hear from him in April. Mr. Maloney stated if the Township does receive the \$1 million from the State for the Center, the Township will still need to come up with an additional \$500,000 to \$1 million to build a Center.

Mr. Wysocki asked about the impact of the winter weather on the Golf Course, and Mr. Fedorchak stated the Course will take some time to recovery, but it is not in bad condition for this time of year. Mr. Maloney reported on the Grand Opening Event in February, and there were over one hundred golfers playing that day. He stated they will need to do work on the pond along the driveway into the Course to improve its ability to maintain water. Mr. Maloney stated they continue to have good feedback about events held at the Course. Mr. Fedorchak stated they also hired a new chef.

## RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated Park & Recreation will be busy in the next few weeks preparing the facilities for spring use by the community. Activities such as spring soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, Frisbee, bocce, and picnics are all permitted to take place in the Township Park system. She stated the Park crew is readying the Pool complex for the season. The Lower Makefield Senior group continues their full schedule of activities six of the seven days of the week in the Township Building.

Ms. Liney stated the fountains at the Garden of Reflection should be activated April 1.

Ms. Liney stated there are several upcoming special events they look forward to assisting with. She stated Park & Recreation will be on hand Saturday, April 9 to assist the Girl Scouts with their tree planting.

Ms. Liney stated The Opening Day celebration for PAA will be Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. featuring Trenton Thunder Boomer and area officials. She stated the Park Board members are welcome, and parking will be available in the Township lot.

Ms. Liney stated the Township will again host the seasonal Farmers Market in Veterans Square on Thursdays beginning in late April.

Ms. Liney stated figures are still being tallied from the ending of the Pool registration discount period this past Friday. She stated in 2010 they had 1055 families register at discount, and they anticipate being at or near those membership levels.

Ms. Liney stated staff work weekends at the Pool should begin Saturday, April 30 and continue very Saturday until the Pool opens on Saturday, May 28.

Mr. Maloney stated he understands that last year the membership revenue was down somewhat, and Ms. Liney agreed. She stated they had more people register by the discount so while the membership numbers were about the same as prior years, those taking advantage of the discount are up so the revenue numbers are down.

## DISCUSSION OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIONS REGARDING PAA BATTING FACILITY

Ms. Liney stated the Township waived Land Development for Veterans Square and the indoor batting facility. Mr. Fritchey stated the Park & Recreation Board received a copy of an e-mail sent to Mr. Birkhead of PAA from the current Chairman of the Planning Commission requesting information about the batting facility including its source of

funding. Mr. Fritchey stated this letter was sent out after the Planning Commission had already approved it and passed it onto the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels some of the questions included in the e-mail were items which are under Park & Recreation's competency and not the Planning Commission's. Mr. Fritchey stated he served on a Planning Commission in another Township and does not understand why the Planning Commission is asking the questions which have been enumerated in this e-mail.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Liney stated she has not heard back from the Township solicitor as to his opinion with regard to a potential conflict with Ms. Bunn's preparing the landscape plan for the Memorial Park arboretum. Mr. Fritchey stated her firm will allow her to do the plan at a substantially reduced rate from her normal billable hours. Mr. Fedorchak stated he does not feel this would be a conflict, but he stated she needs to keep herself isolated from decision making. He stated the Board of Supervisors would make the final decision on this. Mr. Fritchey stated members of the EAC had recommended that Ms. Bunn do this as some of the members had worked with her professionally. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels the cost will be \$4,000. Mr. Fedorchak stated this is a professional service so it would not have to go out to bid.

There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, Mr. Wysocki seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary