

WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Municipal Building  
Minutes of the Meeting  
December 10, 2007

Members present: Mr. Feinberg, Chairman, Mr. DiRocco, Vice Chair, Mrs. Karger, Mr. Bove, Mr. Kumbhardare and Ms. Conlon,  
Staff present: Mr. Wiesner, Interim Township Manager, Mr. Culp, Parks Superintendent and Ms. Gottesfeld, Administrative Assistant/Coordinator  
Guests present: Mr. Choper, Township Supervisor, Mr. Ken Leister, Chester County Bluebird Coordinator and Mr. Ritch Pickering, resident

**Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Feinberg called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Feinberg welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves. He asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Kumbhardare said he wanted to talk about the ordinance for the use of the baseball fields at Boot Road Park. Mr. Feinberg said there was an item on the agenda to discuss reservations for facilities. Mr. Kumbhardare could discuss it then.

**1.) Approval of Minutes for October 16 and November 13** – Mrs. Karger moved to approve the October Minutes as presented. Mr. Kumbhardare seconded this motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Feinberg then asked about the November meeting minutes. He asked if there were any corrections or comments to these minutes. Mrs. Karger moved to accept the November 13 Minutes as presented. Mr. Feinberg asked for a vote. The November 13 Minutes were unanimously approved.

**2.) Public Comment** – Mr. Leister, Bluebird Coordinator for Chester County said that he met with Parks Superintendent Ed Culp and together they came up with a plan for the nesting boxes site locations at Boot Road Park. The total came out to be 11. Mr. Feinberg said this could be included in item #5 Park update. Mr. Leister distributed an aerial photograph of the park with the sites marked for the PRC approval.

**3.) Commissioners' Reports**

a.) Budget Hearing, November 15 – Ms. Gottesfeld highlighted a few things from the budget hearing. Overall the hearing went well.

- o The Smithco Infielder for maintenance of the ball fields was asterisked. Mr. Wiesner said he was in touch with West Goshen Township. West Goshen is purchasing a new infielder machine. The BOS requested that Mr. Wiesner look into a cooperative agreement with West Goshen possibly renting their machine. Mr. Culp, Parks Superintendent will be meeting with West Goshen concerning this matter.
- o The irrigation system was removed from the budget. Supervisor Snyder requested to wait for one year before committing to this purchase. This will give the Township a better idea if the irrigation system is really necessary.
- o \$1000.00 has been budgeted for a possible Boot Road Park festival.
- o \$12,000.00 has been budgeted for a plan for Ship Road Park. Mr. Feinberg noted that this may or may not be used. The Township does not have the staff at present to manage and supervise any development efforts.

b.) Planning Commission Site visit to the Gun club parcel - This site is bordered on the East by the Route 100 spur, on the North by Boot Road and the West by Pottstown Pike. Mr. Kumbhardare said that this parcel is not suitable for an active park. It has steep slopes and would require a lot of grading and trees removed. The site also has water drainage issues and he does not see how it will be developed. There is a trail that goes up to the PECO easement. Mrs. Karger stated that this property is already on the Township Official Map, she distributed photos of the site. The PRC was invited because there may be an opportunity for a trail if this land is developed. A trail could possibly be linked to the proposed trail with the

Brandolini development off of Kirkland Avenue. Previous to the meeting Mrs. Karger had sent out an email describing the property and her concerns about the development of this property. Mrs. Karger would like the BOS to exercise their one year prerogative about purchasing the property.

There was a discussion about what exactly the procedure for the Township when a parcel is on the official map and the Township may want to consider it for preservation as open space or park development. Mr. Wiesner was instructed to research the procedural information for the PRC. Mrs. Karger felt this would give the Township time to research the possibility of preserving this parcel. Mrs. Karger said she realizes that this will take time, energy and Township resources.

- c.) Chester Valley Trail Meeting – Ms. Gottesfeld sent an email prior to the PRC meeting recapping the December 3 Chester Valley Trail meeting. She suggested a County link on the Chester Valley Trail <http://dsf.chesco.org/ccparks> in the email and at the meeting for more detailed information. Mr. Choper stated that the Phase 1 development would be from the Valley Creek Corporate Center heading east to Warner Road near the Schuylkill Expressway. Construction of Phase 1 is due to start in 2009. The development of the trail for West Whiteland is planned for Phase 2.

#### **4.) Monthly Reports**

- a.) November Report – The PRC reviewed the report and asked questions. Mr. Culp noted that vandalism was down overall in the parks. However both he and Ms. Gottesfeld did find broken beer bottles at the Boot Road Park South parking lot on November 20.

#### **5.) Parks**

- a.) Boot Road Park South – The PRC took a moment to look over Mr. Leister’s site map for the proposed 11 bluebird nesting boxes. Mr. Culp said that he and Mr. Leister worked together to choose sites that would not interfere or effect activity at the park. Many of the boxes would be visible to the visitors so they may enjoy seeing the bluebirds. The timeline for the project is March 1, 2008 - all the boxes must be up and ready for the return of the bluebirds. Mr. Culp gave Mrs. Karger a list of plantings at Boot Road Park. Mr. Leister had provided a list of plantings that bluebirds prefer. Mrs. Karger is going to research the two lists and see if there are some additions that would enhance the bluebird project at Boot Road Park. Mr. Culp noted that some of these preferred plantings are already at Boot Road Park.
- b.) Exton Pond – Ms. Gottesfeld and Mr. Wiesner reported on the Exton Pond and the November 15 DEP meeting. Meeting notes were distributed in the PRC packet. DEP feels the dewatering of the pond has reduced the risk substantially but not completely. Mr. Wiesner said this dewatering would give the Township more time to plan correctly how to move forward. DEP said the Township did not have to go any further with the dewatering or have to breach the dam. DEP does want the Township to enter into a long term agreement to find out what other alternatives there are to keeping the pond and dam. Some of these alternatives would be:
  - Diverting the water away from the pond so that it is no longer classified as a dam.
  - Enhancing the embankment, so that it meets the DEP regulations.
  - Putting in an additional spillway.

These are all alternatives that Skelly and Loy will be researching. Mr. Wiesner has just received the draft letter agreement from DEP on Friday. He will review this and then present it to the Board of Supervisors.

- 6.) Grant Update** – Ms. Gottesfeld gave an update concerning the current grant money from the County. An extension on the \$250,000.00 County grant has been approved and the new deadline is June 2. Ms. Gottesfeld provided information, a memo, extension request letter and tentative timeline from Joe Roscioli for the Exton Pond/ Dam work in the PRC packets.

#### **7.) Old Business**

- a.) 2007 Goals and Objectives Review –
  - Attend Park and Recreation Events – Yes,
  - Attend BOS Meetings – Yes

- Attend the PRPS Convention – Yes
- Promote walking - Yes
- Park Clean up day on April 21 - Yes
  - Personal Goals –
    - Investigate biodiesel fuels – Started and will continue to 2008 goals.
    - Form a wetlands committee – No. Mrs. Karger decided to change this to a 2008 goal of “Stewardship role of natural areas”.
    - Attend Friends of the Park meetings – Yes

Accomplishments by the PRC for 2007 were reviewed

- Opened Boot Road Park
- Updated the PRC mission statement
- Participated in the formation of the new website
- Attended Planning Commission site visits and meetings and provided input.

b.) 2008 Goals and Objectives

- Act in accordance with the PRC mission statement
- Attend Parks and Recreation Events
- Attend BOS meetings
- Promote walking
- Adopt a Park program
- Boot Road Park Festival
- Park clean up day in conjunction with Earth Day, Boot Road Park North
- Alternate Fuels research
- Stewardship of existing natural areas

c.) Discussion on the Township Ordinance concerning amplification in the parks – Mr. Choper gave some background information on how particular “exceptions” had been handled in the past. Usually a group will come before the PRC with a request for a particular event, date and time. The PRC may recommend that the BOS review this request and make an exception for the particular event. Mr. Choper said there is a process, not necessarily an absolute. It was agreed to handle these requests on a case by case basis presented to the PRC.

Mrs. Karger asked if we should call this individual back and tell him about this process. Mr. Wiesner said if Ms. Gottesfeld has the contact information for the individual who made the original request he would give him a call.

d.) Spring celebration at Boot Road Park – Mr. Feinberg asked the PRC if they are interested in having a celebration. The general consensus was yes. Mr. Feinberg noted that there is \$1,000.00 in the budget for this. Mr. Feinberg said the PRC may have to go out and obtain sponsorships. Mr. Choper reminded the PRC that there is a “no solicitation” policy for Township organizations excluding the Friends of the Park. Mr. Feinberg said it might be more through advertising. Mr. Feinberg opened the floor for a short discussion. He acknowledged that an event would require organization and participation by the PRC.

Mr. Wiesner opined that just because the \$1,000.00 is in the budget the PRC is not obligated to have such an event if they decide not to move forward on it. However, he did emphasize the participation of the PRC. Mrs. Karger said it would be necessary to find volunteers to help with this event. Mr. Choper recommended talking to Exton Little League about their opening day and partnering with them on this event. Mr. Choper said the Commission may need to have a separate meeting to discuss this. Ms. Conlon said to start off with the January 15 meeting.

Mr. Feinberg said he would try to keep the January meeting agenda down to 2 items; 2008 Goals and Objectives and the spring event. If there needs to be a special meeting later they will have one. Mr. Choper reminded the PRC that any special meetings have to be advertised. Mr. Kumbhardare suggested the PRC start emailing each other and detailing what the PRC would want to do for the event. This would be a start for the January 15 meeting. Mr. Feinberg

agreed the PRC could do some preliminary work beforehand contacting some groups (ELL) to see what their interest is. Mr. Feinberg said he would contact ELL. Mr. Feinberg also requested Ms. Gottesfeld get a draft email out to the PRC concerning the 2008 Goals and Objectives discussed to facilitate the January meeting agenda.

### **8.) New Business**

a.) 2008 PRC meeting schedule – The meeting schedule was set for the third Tuesday of the month. The schedule will be as follows:

1. January 15
2. February 19
3. March 18
4. April 15
5. May 20
6. June 17
7. July 15
8. August 19
9. September 16
10. October 21
11. November 18
12. December 16

The meetings will be held at the Township building at 6:30 with the exception of the June, July and August meetings. These meetings will be held at Boot Road Park House ending at dusk.

b.) 2007 Annual Report – Mr. Feinberg reviewed the PRC information in the 2006 Annual Report. The 2007 Goals and Objectives and accomplishments were discussed earlier. He asked Ms. Gottesfeld if she had information on the varying topics covered in the report. Ms. Gottesfeld said she did have sufficient information to do the report. The report is distributed to the BOS, PRC, Mr. Wiesner and a copy is made available to the public. Mr. Feinberg asked if it could go on the website. Mr. Wiesner said he would check on the website format.

c.) Recommendation to BOS for preserving gun club parcel – Mrs. Karger made a motion to ask the Board of Supervisors to say wait for a year, so that we can decide if that property can be obtained and used for a passive park or acquired for an appropriate use. Mr. Feinberg asked for a second. There was no second. Mrs. Karger withdrew her motion and a general discussion was held. Some concerns of the PRC are “What is the process exactly?” The PRC would be more comfortable with a recommendation if they knew this information. Mr. DiRocco suggested getting more direction from Manager Wiesner for the protocol to determine what needs to be done, instead of just making a motion. Mr. DiRocco noted the Commission spent a lot of time on Open Space. More clarity for the process was requested by the PRC. Mr. Wiesner said he would research it, check with the Solicitor and give the PRC the information.

d.) Resignation - Mr. DiRocco stated after long consideration he was submitting his resignation from the Commission. Mr. DiRocco noted with his work schedule and extensive travel he is unable to devote the time and energy to the Commission he has in the past. He noted his 9 years on the Commission and feels it is a good time to resign. Mr. DiRocco said he was glad that Boot Road Park was open. He noted the work the Commission accomplished on Open Space saying there is still much to do. He appreciated working with everyone on the Commission and their support. The PRC regretfully accepted his resignation, thanked him and wished him well.

**9.) Adjournment** – Mr. DiRocco moved the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Karger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

**Next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, January 15, 2008 at the Municipal Building.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janice K. Gottesfeld