

Eldred Township Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

Call to order

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

I. Mock Park Trails

- 1) Update re mowing, marking, trees of heaven, etc.
 - a) If, while hiking or walking within any township property, someone sees a fallen tree on a trail, Lanternflies, or Tree of Heaven, please contact Frank with the location.

- 2) Field trail and ridge trail
 - a) There was a discussion regarding the field trail maintenance to keep it smooth and walkable. A proposal was made regarding; the possible purchase or rental of a Brush Hog or requesting that the Lessee maintain a walkable path for the field and ridge trails. The formal Recommendation was sent to the Board of Supervisors. A copy of the letter is on the last page of the minutes.

- 3) Wood trail
 - a) There was a discussion on marking the trail and who should do it. No conclusions at this time.
 - b) There was a discussion regarding the possible making and marking of a few new trails within the Mock Park woods.
 - c) There was a discussion regarding how much the Mock Park or trails in the woods should be cleared. The consensus was to keep the woods trails as close to "natural" as possible while maintaining safety.
 - d) There was a discussion on how to keep the trails maintained and who should do the maintaining. Various ideas were put forth;
 - (1) Boy Scouts
 - (2) Volunteers from the community
 - (3) Individuals who would take on the responsibility along with the Public Works Dept.All recommendations were deferred until those ideas have been explored.

4) Princess Run trail

- a) There was a discussion about purchasing a concrete bench near the river for visitors to sit and contemplate the scenery. However, there were some concerns regarding where it should be placed, securing it, and how close it should be to the river.

II. Town Square

1. Plot plan for Vo-Tech – status
 - a. Status is in question due to COVID-19 and school opening procedures.
 - b. There was a discussion regarding if it is necessary to give them a budget

III. Criteria for Landscape Plans – Discussion and Recommendations

1. General Style/theme
 - a. English cottage garden

2. Things that Must Be Included
 - a. Easy maintenance
 - b. Background for photos
 - c. Year-round interest
 - d. Split rail fencing to divide the green from the adjoining property, the parking area, and the road
 - e. ADA accessible (where possible) Paths to the picnic table, bridge, and other points of interest.
 - f. Shade trees
 - g. Types of things that might be included: bridges, benches, natural stone, stone, brick or gravel paving, cast iron benches, gazebos, birdhouses, sundials.
 - h.

3. Things that Should Be Shown as a Possibility (one plan with and one without)
 - a. We didn't get to this one.

IV. Grant for Master Parks Plan – Update

- a. We were updated as to where we are in the Grant Stages.

V. Revisions to Committee Policy – Discussion and Recommendations (Deferred)

VI. Statement of Individual Interests (Deferred)

VII. Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

(See the recommendations letter at the end of the Minutes)

1. Trail maintenance and New Trails formation Proposal has been deferred until JoAnn and Lydia speak to the Boy Scouts to determine the viability of the Scouts undertaking trail development. Once this is determined, the proposal will be solidified and ready for review.
2. Related to Trail Maintenance is a proposal that the Eldred Township Board of Supervisors requests for community volunteers to do trail maintenance, similar to the “clean roads” in concept.
3. Propose to the Eldred Township Board of Supervisors institute descriptive Parking Rule signage for all Township Properties, lots, and other areas the Township is responsible for.
4. MaryAnne would like the Eldred Township Board of Supervisors to review the Farmers lease for the “Field Trail” area. Maryanne proposes the Board of Supervisors amend the future agreement to include mowing the Field Trail. Furthermore she suggests a specified schedule (monthly from May to September), so to temporarily mitigate the need for the purchasing a pull behind mower/Brush Hog, so that the Public Works Dept can maintain the Field Trail area.
5. Request that the Eldred Township Board of Supervisors consults with the “Rails to Trails” representative about ideas on how to Maintain and utilize the future of Mock Park Properties.

VIII. Other

IX. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Lydia and Seconded by Joe and Joyce

NOTE: NEXT PAGE IS A COPY OF THE LETTER, SENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Parks and Recreation Committee

Recommendations, to the Eldred Township Board of Supervisors, as of the August 10, 2021, meeting

The Parks and Recreation Committee voted, on August 10, 2021, to tender recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Those recommendations are as follows:

1. To facilitate and maintain a clear path in the Mock Park Field and Ridge Path areas, while mitigating the need for investment in additional equipment by the Township, the Committee requests that the Board review the Mock Field lease and amend it to include wording making the Lessee responsible for mowing a 10-foot-wide path in the area regarded as the Field and Ridge path from May until September.
2. That the "Woods Trail" is maintained in a natural "as is" state as possible with the exception for standard trail blaze markings and to rectify any hazards.
3. That the Board, authorize this Committee to set a date and invite volunteers to assist it with performing light maintenance on the Mock Park trails sometime this Fall. Light maintenance being defined as renewing established trail blaze markers, removing plant growth on the trail and any refuse discovered.

4. That the Board create Parking Rules to be defined and instituted with proper descriptive signage, as required for all Township Properties, lots, and other areas for which the Township is responsible.
5. That the Board arranges for Chris Strohline, the “Rails to Trails” representative, to meet with the Parks Committee sometime this winter to discuss potential arrangements for the future management of Mock House.

Diana Pucci

Parks and Recreation secretary