

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
February 22, 2023 Minutes**

The East Bradford Township Parks and Recreation Board convened on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the township building, 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the front door of the township building and on the Township website at <https://www.eastbradford.org> as required by the Sunshine Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marianne Bausinger, Mark Beaugard, John Fidler, Harry Hatzipavrides, Matt Maturani, John Spangler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Colley

STAFF/PROFESSIONALS PRESENT:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Ryan Staiber, Property Steward
Tenley Adams, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Hatzipavrides. The motion was then seconded by Mr. Spangler and carrying with all in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPERTY STEWARD

Mr. Phifer introduced Ryan Staiber who has been hired to fill the new position of Property Steward. Mr. Staiber started January 30th and is starting to get to know the parks and open spaces. The Parks & Recreation Board introduced themselves to Mr. Staiber and looks forward to working with him.

STARR FARM PARK TRAILS & PARKING CONCEPTS

Mr. Phifer presented a concept plan for the new trails to be created on the west side of Skelp Level Road. The Trails Committee had a site walk earlier in the month and had made recommendations on alignments of the trails. A discussion about the locations of street crossings was held and the P&R Board feels that two crossings should be made to allow for a perimeter loop trail of the entire property. One crossing at the intersection of Skelp Level Road and Harmony Hill Road and the other south of the current parking area on Skelp Level Road. They feel without the more southern crossing people will just cross the road anyway and if it is delineated it will make for a safer crossing.

Mr. Phifer presented proposed changes to the parking area to allow for horse trailer parking since the trails on both sides of Skelp Level Road will be open to equestrian use. A conceptual sketch was created by the township engineer and moved the parking area up to the intersection with Harmony Hill Road, with an access on both Harmony Hill Road and Skelp Level Road to allow for trailers to enter and exit without having to back up. The P&R Board discussed this concept and didn't think that the neighborhood would be happy with the parking area so close to the houses at the intersection. It was suggested that trailer parking could be created along the existing driveway to the metal storage building with a loop around the building to allow trailers easy turnaround. The question was raised as to how much usage the trails would receive by equestrians since the planned trail system, at approximately 3 miles, will not be lengthy relative to most equine trail systems. Could parking along the driveway be used temporarily until it is better known if trailer parking is necessary? The P&R Board did agree that additional vehicular parking will be necessary with the addition of more trails.

APRIL VOLUNTEER TREE PLANTINGS

Mr. Phifer announced that two volunteer opportunities have been scheduled in April for tree plantings. The tree planting at Shaw's Bridge Park will be on Saturday, April 15th and at Plum Run Preserve the planting will be on Earth Day, which is Saturday, April 22nd. Anyone interested in joining can register through the township website's "events" page.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Mr. Phifer said that 6 concerts have been scheduled and they will start on Thursday, June 15th with "Echoes of the British Invasion", followed every other Thursday through August 24th with the following groups: West Chester Community Band, Little Red Rooster Blues Band, Slingshot, the Flying Komorowski Brothers, and One Alternative. All concerts will be held at the Jordan Amphitheater in East Bradford Park, beginning at 7:00 pm.

FALL EVENT

Mr. Phifer said that he is planning the return of a signature fall event this year in October. The Oktoberfest event held in 2021 was extremely well-attended but had some challenges with vendor capacity and site setup. The event was temporarily tabled in 2022 due to time constraints caused by the Starr Farm Park transactions and closings, and because certain logistics of the event had to be reconsidered. The event will return this October but is being rebranded as AutumnFest and will be designed to incorporate broader fall themes that highlight the Township's uniquely enduring sense of local community and respect for our historic and scenic farms and landscapes. The event is being planned for Sunday, October 22nd from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at East Bradford Park. There will be two food trucks, beer and wine vendors, and a gelato truck to handle culinary offerings. There will also be live music, a community tree giveaway, honey products for sale from bees that are kept in the township, and several other free offerings for families and kids. It was suggested that the Chadds Ford Pumpkin Carve could be a good resource for ideas. A scarecrow building contest was suggested.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Phifer said that the Board of Supervisors agreed with the recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Board to keep the membership at 7.

Mr. Fidler said that he had met a Brandywine Valley Archery Club member who commented on how well they did at Starr Farm Park this season. Overall, the club ethically harvested 42 deer this season from the township properties.

Mr. Phifer said that the 2023 fundraising campaign for construction of the Plum Run Trail and Strode's Barn Outdoor Heritage Center is underway, and he is hopeful that work will commence in 2024.

ADJOURN: On motion of Mr. Fidler and seconded by Mr. Spangler, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenley F. Adams
Secretary