

Hamiltonban Township Recreation & Parks Commission  
23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2009

**Members Present:** Chairman Pamela Wiehagen, Vice-Chairman Cathy Jo Lehmer, Juanita Larmer, and Secretary Doreen Premo.

**Others Present:** Supervisor Coleen Reamer.

The meeting was called to order at 8 pm by Chairman Wiehagen. She announced the meeting will not be audio-taped for any purpose.

**Approval of Agenda:** Add Item “d. Review ‘Letter to Prospective Candidates’ for RPC membership, and make changes” under New Business. Juanita Larmer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Cathy Jo Lehmer. The Agenda was unanimously accepted.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commission members reviewed the minutes for December 10, 2008. There were no corrections made, and Juanita Larmer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Pam Wiehagen. The minutes were unanimously accepted and will be placed in the township secretary’s inbox for further processing, and e-mailed to the Webmaster.

**Reorganization:** Juanita made a motion to keep the current officers in place for another year. Cathy Jo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted. Thus, the Officers for 2009 will remain: Chairman – Pamela Wiehagen; Vice-Chairman – Cathy Jo Lehmer; Secretary – Doreen Premo.

**Old Business:** The BB Section Township lots were discussed in terms of what would need to be done to develop that area into a Passive Recreation Fitness park for the neighborhood. We decided we needed to take a survey of the neighbors (around 10 questions to be written and discussed later), and how to conduct the survey. We discussed what features the neighborhood might want in the park such as two parking spots, walking trails, a pavilion, etc.. We thought that the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts might take on the general maintenance as a project to pick up litter, and they might want to do overnight camping. Someone might be willing to donate materials and/or time to build a pavilion. We need to develop a reservation form and literature about the rules and regulations such as supplying at one’s own expense a portapotty for overnight camps. We could install a notice board with a glass covering over the notices. We might eventually put up bird houses (grant from Audubon Society), label the types of trees, put in a split rail fence along the front, and install a hedge row along the back of the property. We discussed developing neighborhood ownership for park oversight, and someone might be willing to mow once in a while. Supervisor Reamer suggested we might eventually need to contact an engineer to design the park, or County Planner Rob Thaeler might donate an hour or so to give us ideas for a design. We decided that there should not be any solid fencing so as to allow a clear

view of the grounds. Also, as the park is to be a “dawn to dusk” park, no lighting will be necessary. Supervisor Reamer also suggested we might want to ask the Board of Supervisors to maintain the RPC seed money in a special account so that it can accrue providing us with extra money for training and other expenses that may arise in performing our mission. Supervisor Reamer said we might want to contact Mayor Hanne of Arendtsville and Betsy Kerlin of LCAC to talk with them about the process involved in planning the small park they are developing on the site of a former gas station. She also mentioned that Chuck Reid, director of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, might be a resource person for any future planning. He is currently involved in funding the Preserve, and has worked for DCNR in the grant writing division.

Secretary Premo mentioned the Pennsylvania Parks and Trails brochures to let everyone know that there are other parks that we might want to contact for information on how they started the process of developing their parks.

The Secretary still needs to contact the greater area parks in Shippensburg and York for possible advice in planning a trail.

The Official Map was tabled to another meeting when we have a workable map to draw on. Secretary Premo and possibly one other member will visit Mr. Rick Hise at the Adams County Mapping Office in the County Court House and request a large map containing the tax parcels for use in determining which properties could be considered for park easements in the future. Supervisor Reamer discussed the difficulty in putting easements especially on farmers’ lands, but that some of the farmers are beginning to understand the benefits of doing so. Most objections come from the past practice of filling in the Tapeworm Railroad bed with trash. The current farmers are concerned that they would need to clean up the railroad bed incurring huge fees and possibly penalties. Supervisor Reamer stated that she is studying the possibility that if an historical easement only were to be obtained on this area that the farmer would not be required to have the soil tested, and thus would not become a superfund site or that funds might be provided for some cleanup. Another objection of the farmers is that they don’t want to risk having people on their property. However, LCAC (Land Conservancy of Adams County) does not require public access to lands in their charge. One of the area farms is coming up at auction soon, and we might be able to require an easement be given by the new owner.

**New Business:** Secretary Premo, a member of the South West Adams County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, discussed the relationship between the mission of this Plan and the work of the RPC.

Discussion was held on the upcoming workshop “2009 Parks and Recreation Academy – Basics” to be held at the PSATS building in Enola, PA on Mar. 25 from 5:30 PM to 9 PM. All four current members will be attending, and arrangements were made for transportation.

The members took a moment to read over the Year-end Report submitted to the Board of Supervisors, and agreed with the contents.

The members discussed a sample letter to use in recruiting new members to the Commission. Two possible recruits were mentioned, and the Secretary will contact them via the new letter and a follow-up call a week later.

**Public Comment:** Supervisor Reamer announced that there will be a fundraising Sausage and Pancake Breakfast at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve on Sat., Mar. 14, from 7:30 to 11:30 AM if anyone is interested in attending.

**Other:** Next RPC meeting is April 8, 2009 at 7:30 pm at 23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320.

**Adjourn:** Cathy Jo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Doreen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Premo, Secretary