

Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, PA
Recreation and Parks Commission
2007 Year-end Report

May 2007 marks the creation of this township commission for the purpose of exploring options for planning future development, structure, and maintenance of parks for public usage in Hamiltonban Township. Several accomplishments for the year are:

- the formation of the commission,
- the structure of the commission, and,
- creation of an ordinance that will allow the commission to perform its function into the future.

The beginning members of this commission were Pamela Wiehagen (chairman), Betty Clark (vice-chairman), Ellen Newlin (secretary), Christa Wills, Peggy Abraham, Doreen Premo, and Cathy Jo Lehmer under the auspices of Supervisors Coleen Reamer, and Robert Gordon, acting as liaisons from the Board of Supervisors. The commission underwent some changes in membership during the year to now be composed of Pamela Wiehagen, Cathy Jo Lehmer, Doreen Premo, and Tammy Deardorff from Hamiltonban Township. We also added Phyllis Gilbert as a non-voting representative from Fairfield Borough for future possible formation of an area-wide, coordinated recreation plan to avoid overlapping services to the public. The Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) adopted a Code of Ethics and began discussions on Bylaws to govern the functioning of the commission. Elections held at the January Reorganization Meeting resulted in the following officers for 2008: Pamela Wiehagen (chairman), Cathy Jo Lehmer (vice-chairman), and Doreen Premo (secretary). We will rotate these offices yearly per the RPC Bylaws.

We also voted on having the township secretary provide the RPC Minutes to the township webmaster for inclusion on the township webpage.

The major accomplishment of the RPC has been the creation of the Hamiltonban Township/Fairfield Borough Joint Recreation Plan. To this end the RPC helped Mr. Robert Thaeler take an inventory of all existing recreational public and private facilities in the surrounding townships and boroughs. The major contributors to this were Peggy Abraham and Cathy Jo Lehmer. Under Mr. Thaeler's direction, we looked at such issues as the range of population and the types of households in these areas now and in 10 to 20 years, made an assessment of how the recreation land is needed to service the population and the types of facilities that will be needed, and how much land or fees to require from developers. This plan was brought to fruition by the professional quality of the product of Mr. Thaeler, Senior Planner from the Adams County Office of Planning & Development (ACOPD). Mr. Timothy Cormany, township engineer, aided Mr. Thaeler with text additions referencing the Recreation Plan. The plan includes provision for fees in-lieu-of land donations to fund future parks (a Mandatory Dedication Ordinance to allow the township to receive money from land developers for this purpose). A fee per dwelling unit was suggested to start at \$1450 with provision that the township can revisit the fee amount

every five years. The Hamiltonban Township/Fairfield Borough Joint Recreation Plan is due to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 7, 2008 as Resolution 01-2008 of the Hamiltonban Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

Future Plans

For future plans stemming from the above resolution, the Board of Supervisors is working on a land swap with Valley Quarries (a 4.2-acre parcel behind Valley Quarries owned by the township for a 10-acre parcel on Bullfrog Road across from the Mountain View Golf Course owned by Valley Quarries). If this transfer goes through, the township will build a new office and maintenance building on the 10-acre parcel. The next step by the township would be to consider leasing-to-own from Valley Quarries the 17-acre parcel (the old Musselman farm) next to the 10-acre parcel for future development as a community park. The township also owns two lots (1 acre) in the BB Section on Rye Trail that the RPC is considering turning into a small neighborhood park provided the Board of Supervisors extends its approval.