

**WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Members Present (attendance indicated by an “X”):

	Marshall Bleefeld		Brian Heljenek – Alternate
	Carol Christ		Robert Irvine
X	Charles Christine	X	Susan Mudambi
X	Chris Cimini - Alternate	X	Alex Simon - Alternate
X	Angela Dougherty	X	Nancy Thillet
X	John Elliott	X	Township Representatives: Kurt Baker, Courtney Meehan
	Sandy Feltes		

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Elliott took roll call.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from the September meeting, Mr. Christine moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dougherty. The motion passed unanimously.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Environmental Sustainability Program

Members: Charles Christine, Chris Cimini, Sandy Feltes, Brian Heljenek, Susan Mudambi.

There was a volunteer trail clean-up day on Saturday, October 9, at Wentz Run Park. In attendance were members from the P&OS board, the Blue Bell Rotary, and the boy scouts.

The Blue Bell Rotary is interested in starting an “Adopt-a-Trail” program in Whitpain Township.

The Township will deposit another pile of woodchips by the Pignut Hickory stump.

Mr. Baker will work on having a finalized trail map prepared and posted in park kiosks.

Capital Projects

Members: Marshall Bleefeld, Carol Christ, Nancy Thillet, John Elliott.

No updates.

Mermaid Lake MSDP:

Members: Sandy Feltes, Angela Dougherty.

Phase 1: Removal of the existing pool and dam, improvement to stream corridor, identification of flood plain area, surveying location of inclusive playground pods, and installing pickleball courts.

The 4th Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. via Zoom.

Deer and Wildlife Management

Members: Robert Irvine, Alex Simon, John Elliott. Mike Richino is staff liaison. John Ferro from Wissahickon Trails, and Lt. Armstrong from the Whitpain Police Department.
No updates.

Liaison to Shade Tree Commission (STC)

Members: Charles Christine, Susan Mudambi (alternate). Mike Richino is staff liaison.

Mr. Christine provided attached update.

IV. 2022 TOWNSHIP PARK & OPEN SPACE BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

The Board of Supervisors will be reviewing the budget during their November 4th and November 11th meetings. The P&OS Board reviewed the budget with Mr. Baker leading the discussion. The budget is mostly a maintenance-driven, due to the increased number of parks and trails in the Township.

Mr. Baker stated that he and Mr. Farzetta, Director of Public Works, reviewed the budget to determine future projects that can be completed inhouse by the Public Works department. Mr. Baker said there is not as many outside funds available for open space and park projects.

The P&OS Board was asked to review the Budget and direct any questions to Mr. Baker by email and it will be discussed during the November meeting.

Ms. Mudambi made a motion to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors detailing the P&OS Board's support for the previously approved PROS Comprehensive plan recommendation to increase financial support for the parks, open space, and trail maintenance in the upcoming budget. Ms. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The Parks and Recreation Department's Daddy Daughter Dance has been canceled this year per CDC guidelines.

The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the following upcoming events:

- Hayrides at Prophecy Creek Park – October 22 and 23, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Barkoberfest at the Whitpain Dog Park – October 23, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Star Party at Armentrout Preserve – Thursday, November 11, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thillet
Secretary, Park and Open Space Board

Courtney Meehan, CPRP
Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Dept.

FROM: Charles Christine
TO: Park and Open Space Commission
RE: Shade Tree Commission Meeting 10/06/2021

Edgar David, Mark Eberle, Joyce Keller, Tim Knoles, Nilza Lozada, Mike Richino

Tree Give-away: Commission waiting to see if Twp. will provide extra dollars for 2022 program. Expect a number available at Nov. meeting. Richino will expedite information.

Street Tree Planting: Richino believes three or four still available. Lozada reports difficulty accessing data on Whitpain Web. Edgar agrees. Richino shows Street Tree info access on screen. Residents can complete Street Tree request on web or drop off form at Twp. Office.

Turnpike Reforestation: Richino, Edgar David and one other person comprise committee to select tree species for planting. Committee wants to request annual budget allotment for Reforestation rather than depending upon annual appropriations and grants.

This discussion slid into consideration of tree canopy project and need for dependable funding for reaching canopy goal of 40% (A Morris Arboretum goal). Canopy now 38.7%.

Parks: Lozada reports residents' desire for Mermaid pool larger than proposed on present plan. Richino reports on Erbs Mill Park. Some equipment installed, trails will be complete in two weeks, planting delayed until Spring. Shade Tree Commission will have input re: plantings.

Tree Registry: Edgar – Registry last produced in 2009, contained tree, age, picture, location, species. Edgar proposed an update of Registry in digital form. There is a form on Whitpain Web for resident reporting of tree info; no interest. Some residents fear if tree registered, permit needed to tend or eliminate tree. Richino reports a replacement Pignut will be planted in Spring. Joyce Keller volunteered to write a story on Pignut history for Wire. Some comment that programs other than Registry more worthy of Commission time. Edgar will revisit when more members present.

Oak Tree threatening roadway: Richino reports that owner uncertain re: accepting Twp. Offer to pay for part of removal. Owner wants full payment.

Tree Ordinances: A committee has been formed. Richino will report on this in November.

Deer Management: no report. Bambi is safe.

Whitpain Wire: Committee support for article in Wire re: care for trees. For Fall possible subjects include leaf mulching, pruning, deer protection. Suggestion to expand advice to Facebook and Instagram. Richino reports that Township Supervisors have opposed use of social media in past. Edgar will write article on Fall tree care for Wire.

By Charles Christine