

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

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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

X	Charles Christine	X	Chad Merriweather
X	Chris Cimini	X	Susan Mudambi
X	Angela Dougherty	X	Alex Simon
X	John Elliott	X	Nancy Thillet
X	Sandy Feltes	X	Township Representatives: Kurt Baker, Courtney Meehan
X	Brian Heljenek		

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Feltes took roll call. The Park and Open Space Board welcomes new alternates members Chad Merriweather, Victoria Hyczko, and Jon Wallner.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from the February 2022 meeting, Mr. Christine moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Mudambi. The motion passed unanimously.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Environmental Sustainability Program

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

PECO Line Trail

The Township was awaiting final approval from PECO to finalize the PECO Line Trail corridor (Wentz Run Trail to Henkels and McCoy). PECO is planning infrastructure improvements through the corridor, which won't be complete for 8-10 years. Mr. Baker is meeting with PECO in two weeks to determine if the trail can remain open until the construction begins. Once construction begins, the trail may be closed for up to two years.

Liberty Bell Trail

This project will be tabled until PECO completes infrastructure improvements along the corridor.

Reformation Church

With the PECO Line Trail and the Liberty Bell Trail likely to be closed due to PECO improvements, the Township is moving forward with completing the Reformation Church Trail.

Trail Clean-Up and Earth Day 5k

As part of the Earth Day 5k and Fun Walk, the Township will hand out trash bags and gloves to walkers so they can pick up trash during their walk along the Narcissa Road Trail. Ms. Mudambi would like to schedule a separate pop-up trail clean-up event this spring.

The Earth Day 5k and Fun Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at Prophecy Creek Park. Members of the Park and Open Space Board are encouraged to register for the run and walk and/or volunteer for the morning.

Erbs Mill Park Update

The Township is in the process of installing a park sign at the entrance. Most of the park amenities are being installed in the next couple of weeks. An electrician will be installing electricity at the pavilion and security cameras will also be installed once electricity is in place. A ribbon cutting ceremony will likely be scheduled for later this spring.

Fields to Meadows

The Township is planning on using an existing meadow at Prophecy Creek Park and using that as a properly constructed meadow as a pilot program for future practices for converting fields to meadows.

B. Mermaid Lake MSDP

The Township met with Simone and Collins and is expecting to receive the Phase I construction documents by mid-April.

C. Capital Projects

Members: Nancy Thillet, John Elliott.

No updates.

D. Deer and Wildlife Management

Members: Alex Simon, John Elliott

No updates.

E. Liaison to Shade Tree Commission (STC)

Members: Charles Christine, Susan Mudambi (alternate).

Report attached.

IV. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATES

April 21 – Earth Day event with School District and Holy Rosary and St. Helena School

April 24 – Tree Giveaway at Prophecy Creek Park

April 30 – Earth Day 5k and Fun Walk at Prophecy Creek Park

May 20 – Drive in Movie at Mermaid Park: Ghost Busters

May 22 – Outdoor Market at MCCC with Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Earth Day Event

On Thursday, April 21, the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the 21st Anniversary Earth Day Celebration. Elementary school students from Wissahickon School District, St. Helena School, and Holy Rosary Regional School participate in a poem and artwork contest. Winners are recognized during the event on April 21. Elected officials and dignitaries attend the event. Members of the Park and Open Space Board are invited to join in on the festivities.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Cimini
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 03/02/2022

Present: Mike Richino for the Township, John Casini, Edgar David, Celia Cameron, Mark Eberle, Tim Knowles, Andy Meehan, Nilza Lozada. Whitpain Supervisor Joyce Keller also attended.

Reorganization: Celia Cameron elected secretary.

Earth Day: John Casini will arrange awards to school children. Joyce Keller and Nilza Lozada volunteer to assist.

Tree Distribution: David received below budget quote @ \$ 33.00 per tree. Richino notes tree price was \$ 30.00 in 2021. Casini will coordinate tree distribution plan. Plan is to have autos park in designated place and residents proceed to tent where credentials will be checked and trees distributed. Committee members will aid in credentialing, tree distribution and helping move trees to autos. Residents allowed either two trees or three trees, depending upon how many people show. Whichever, only one flowering tree will be provided in the mix. Meehan will unsure delivery of mulch. Casini noted need for structure in managing parking, forming line and general distribution. Lozada asked for rain date. Edgar said distribute rain or shine – no rain date. Lozada suggested distributing a paper giving instructions for tree planting and care. All agreed this information can be placed on Whitpain Wire. Cameron reminded that in 2021 one set of written instructions were shown in the tent. Richino will provide a laminated copy of these instructions for reading on site. Lozada suggests recording e-mail addresses of recipients for later mailing of instructions to recipients. David notes this burdensome; Wire instructions sufficient. Casini will advertise the event and manage the door hanger follow-up. David suggested recruiting boy scouts to walk neighborhood to later report on fate of trees.

Center Sq. Park: David working with Morris Arboretum for plan for trees in park. There was no report on planting program for Mermaid.

Prophecy Creek Park: David showed map plan for planting with most trees on Park boundaries. He included interest in planting lakeside, but this not included in projected plan. Richino counseled sharing plan with Park and Open Space Board.

Canopy Restoration: David has prepared a letter to Supervisors re: restoration. Cameron volunteered to edit letter. After approval, Richino will forward to Twp. Manager for inclusion on Supervisor information packet.

Wildlife Management: Richino will forward Commission letter and packet for inclusion

in Supervisor meeting information.

Grant Opportunities: Richino reported that Township now has a Township person to research and solicit grants. He will keep Commission posted of efforts and results.

Heritage Tree Registry: Knowles reported that Commission has sufficient credits to qualify for award. He suggested we eliminate Registry web site and keep record on a spreadsheet. Knowles and David agreed to maintain spreadsheet.

Tree Distribution reprise: Lozada suggests producing application form for tree in Wire. Edgar will do this.

Turnpike Planting: Richino looking for direction on tree maintenance.

Pig Nut: David, Casini and Knowles will collect information. Hope for spring planting.

Zoom Meetings: Richino reports no Supervisor guidance as yet. There was some support for continuing Zoom even after open meetings are approved.