

New Hope Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes April 24, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Roll call/Attendees: Joanne Zuckerman (meeting Leader), Sally Weisman, Randy Ragasto, Bev Okulicz, Diana Williams, Eileen O'Neil, and Louise Feder.

Approval of March minutes was seconded by Randy Ragasto

Old Business:

Lenape Park Landscaping

- The final contract was awarded to Holly Days (Ambler, PA) after the initial winner, Best Buddies, rescinded their bid. Work should be completed by the end of April. Randy to be contacted to give guidance on where the plants and shrubs should be planted.
- The water feature has been repaired and the hose bib is in working order.
- Several of the lights in the light features still need to be replaced.
- The gazebo in Lenape Park needs to be painted. Beth will contact Matt to see if Public Works is responsible for this.

Bench Dedication

- Tom Carroll is back in town. Beth to find a date that works for him.
- Location for the bench was discussed and the consensus was to put it on the Green Roof. Other locations may still be considered.

New Hope Arts

- The piece of sculpture currently housed at Phillips' Mill will be transferred to the Visitors' Center. Other pieces may also become available.

Spring Planting

- Is complete, \$800 was spent on the plants.
- Public Works notified Beth that they are not able to water the plants until May 1. Park & Rec committee members have been volunteering to do the watering so the plants are not lost. This is proving to be difficult for the volunteers as they have to fill water containers multiple times at home and take them to the planters as not all planters have nearby hose

bibs available. Public Works' availability to water needs to be discussed before next year's spring planting. Louise Feder to bring this matter up with the Boro Council.

- Living Earth to install hanging baskets in town. They will be told not to put any on Stockton Aveue as that bridge is closed for construction until October.

New Business

Canal Watering

Eileen O'Neil brought the matter of the ongoing issue of inconsistent water in the canal which results in large fish kills and damage to other canal wildlife and the canal bed itself. She gave a brief history of why this is occurring. The electricity for the pump at Centre Bridge is paid for, solely, by New Hope for Our Canal fundraising money and by private citizen donations. The cost is approximately \$1400-1800 per month (approx \$21,000 annually). Donor fatigue has set in and funds are no longer available. DCNR's policies prohibit "water augmentation" so they cannot provide the funds to run the pump. This matter has been brought up to both local officials and to state representatives and senators several times over the years to no avail. As a short-term solution, Eileen suggested that, perhaps money from New Hope P&R and Solebury P&R could be used to pay the monthly electricity fee. As a long-term solution, amending DCNR's water augmentation policy should be considered. Louise Feder suggested that she set up a meeting with Representative Tim Brennan to discuss the canal watering matter, in general. Eileen said she would welcome that opportunity. Eileen to write a summary of the history and facts surrounding this matter so it can be shared with Rep. Brennan in advance of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting May 22, 2023