

## PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Bedford Township Hall  
8100 Jackman Road  
January 8, 2018 7:00 P.M.

Present: Connie Velliquette, Chair, Sally Dunn, Lew Smith, & Joan Dunton.

Also Present: TC Clements, Nancy Crandell, Jon Gutierrez

Excused: Jerry Goodridge

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Vice Chair Velliquette, with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Dunn, seconded by Smith to approve the agenda of the January 8, 2018 Park Board meeting, all ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Dunn, seconded by Dunton to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2017 Park Board meeting, all ayes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Dunton, seconded by Smith to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of the December 8, 2017 Park Board budget meeting, all ayes. Motion carried.
4. Secretary's Report: Fireworks donation letters will be going out some time in the next month. For the next fireworks, the local news stations will be notified, as well as the newspapers, and yard signs should be made to be put on the school property that say, "Fireworks this weekend" so that they can be reused each year.
5. Treasurer's Report: Expenses for period \$1,200.94. Remaining fund balance \$46,113.21. Motion to approve treasurer's report made by Smith, seconded by Dunton. Roll Call vote: all ayes. Motion Carried.
6. Presentations:
  - a. Peter Zaums, Attorney regarding the Wheeler Preserve. There are 22 acres at Section and Whiteford Center Roads that were left by the Wheelers to be a wildlife preserve, which they'd like to be named The Wheeler Wildlife Preserve. Conservancies don't want the property because it doesn't have much water. In order for the Park Commission to be allowed to accept the property, it has to be accessible to the public. He has gotten approval from the probate court allowing a trail and parking lot to be built on the property, and they will allow him to make a donation from the estate to fund building an accessible trail and parking area similar to what's at Ansted Park. They would also like to stipulate that no pets be allowed at the preserve, no motorized vehicles on the trail, and no structures or improvements be done on the property. Bird and bat houses would be allowed. He suggested digging a well to attract more wildlife. He said he'd also like to have a monument built for the Wheelers, which would be a large stone with their photo etched in a metal plaque. Velliquette asked if wooden resting stations could be placed on the trail. He said that would be allowed. Smith asked if fencing could be built, and Zaums replied that part of the property already has a fence on the North side, but that if more fencing is added, it could prohibit wildlife from getting onto the property. Dunton asked about adding a portable toilet, and he said if it's required it would be allowed. Dunn asked if a shelter could be built for people to watch wildlife from, and Zaums said no. Zaums offered to send what he feels the restrictions on the property should be so the park can review it. Smith asked if natural plantings would be allowed, like the butterfly gardens at Ansted, and Zaums said yes, because it would attract and benefit wildlife.
  - b. Jodi Russ, Bedford Public Library branch manager regarding having books at the parks. Friends of the Library would like to install book boxes at the parks called Little Free Libraries. They are made from refurbished newspaper boxes, and will be maintained and stocked by Friends of the Library. The boxes will have books available for all age groups, to help improve literacy in the community. She's already spoken with the township maintenance department, and Pat Thatcher said they have chain and locks available to secure the boxes to fences at the park. Clements suggested that they also contact the DDA to have a box placed at Pearl Albert Green Park. Motion to allow Friends of the Library to place and maintain book boxes at the parks made by Dunton, seconded by Smith. All

ayes, motion carried.

7. Community Education: The winter brochure is out. Basketball has been very popular. Pickleball is looking to be popular as well. Crandell is working on final quotes to finish their proposal. The new superintendent started, and she's excited to work with him. Velliquette asked if the permit for the stadium for fireworks has cleared with him, and Crandell said yes.
8. Comments from the Public: None.
9. Old / New Business:
  - a. **Carr's Grove Park:** Quiet. Not much activity due to extremely cold weather.
  - b. **Samaria Park:** Quiet. The awnings turned out very nice, and Dunn suggested to Bedford Press to include a photo of them in the next issue. The sign needs to be touched up.
  - c. **White Park:** Quiet. A woman called and asked for a portable toilet to be put back at the park. Velliquette will be looking into the cost of a winterized unit.
  - d. **Parmelee Park:** The sign needs to be replaced. Skate Park has been officially closed because of weather. There are concerns that the owner of the property where the sign is might not want a new sign put in its place.
  - e. **Indian Creek:** Everything looks fine.
  - f. **Ansted Park:** Motion to approve invoice from Designs by Nature for work done in December for \$5,949 made by Dunn, seconded by Dunton. Roll Call vote: all ayes. People walking the park while he was planting were given seeds to help plant, and he told them about the seeding. He also saw evidence that there's a coyote in the area, and a place where deer had been sleeping. He said there should be a burn done to help the ground for the next season.
  - g. 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Fortin hasn't given any more information about the cell tower issue.
  - h. Bids for portable toilets: Motion to approve proposal from Stevens Disposal made by Dunton, seconded by Smith. Roll Call vote: all ayes. Motion carried.
  - i. Bids for dumpsters: Velliquette will contact Stevens to ask about environmental fee not mentioned in bid.
10. Comments from the Public: Sean Sheppard 2564 Torrey Hill, from Bedford Blast. Came in to ask where things are as far as getting approval for Bedford Blast.
11. Commissioner's Comments: Smith said regarding contracts for ball diamonds, Goodridge has been working to contact the township attorney to get a standard contract drawn up. Smith added that he received an email from 3B requesting a discussion for a 3B contract, and he asked the board to forward comments, concerns, and questions to him. Clements suggested that restrictions on the Wheeler property need to be carefully reviewed, and our attorney should be involved as well. He also suggested that if invasive species moves onto the property, it could pose an issue with what the board should do to address it, versus what the board is allowed to do to address it. Dunn suggested that maybe the township board should be the ones to decide if the property can be accepted. Smith said a valid survey should be obtained before the property could be accepted.
12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Dunn, seconded by Smith, all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Velliquette.

Respectfully submitted  
Joan Dunton, Park Board Secretary