

Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes of October 7, 2020 Meeting

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:04 pm on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, virtually via Zoom due to the pandemic and keeping consistent with the social distance order.

In attendance were: Joe Filo, Linda Bosco-Devine, David Cole, Aparna Virmani, Recreation Director Joe Passaro and Township Committee Person Jolanta Maziarz.

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Courier News, and Echoes Sentinel as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

Dave Cole motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 2, 2020 and Joe Filo 2nd.

DIRECTORS REPORT- Joe Passaro reviewed key points from the Directors Report.

- See attached

DISCUSSION

Joe discussed that there will be two fall concerts, Parrotbeach band on October 17 and a concert for the seniors on October 15 featuring Bob Marino. Joe stated that recreation will be putting together short segments for the cable channel featuring different programs such as music, art, yoga and Q&A with Township Committee members. The concert series successfully live streamed to the cable channel and residents enjoyed that they could watch from home.

Joe Passaro discussed the pavilion project and stated that the Township Committee will get final details soon and will be voting on the project. He also stated that he would like to do fundraising for the project and try to get corporate sponsorship. Joe plans to re-start the buy a brick program as a fundraiser. All the old bricks have been stored away to protect them before construction. Dave Cole and Joe Filo stated that benches could be another fundraiser option. The project and fundraising will most likely start in the new year. Dave Cole asked if Joe could share the design and plans to committee members, which Joe stated that he would forward the drawings but final details would be sent once the Township Committee approves the project. Recreation Advisory Secretary, Amanda Altavilla shared her screen via Zoom to show the committee the rendering of the pavilion. Joe then discussed the details of the structure such as it will be made of steel for easier maintenance and the color pallet to match Town Hall.

Amanda Altavilla stated that Bruce Vitale who started the fishing derby over 30 years ago passed away. Joe Passaro stated that Bruce's wife said at the wake that Bruce's favorite jacket was the one that Warren Recreation gave him and it smelled like fish as like all his clothes did.

Attending the meeting from the public was resident, Heather Silver. Joe introduced Heather and explained to the committee that she will be running a Trunk or Treat event for Warren Recreation since the schools would not host the event this year due to COVID-19. Heather stated that she was grateful that the town and the recreation department came through for all the children in Warren. She stated that it is her youngest child's last year in ALT school and that she has run the Trunk or Treat event for about 6 years for the schools. Heather also went on to say that there will be 25 cars from each school and all slots have been filled for the event.

Heather stated that the Recreation Department puts on so many great events that it should be circulated throughout the schools so that residents are more aware of township events. A discussion was then held by the committee that there is a disconnect still with the schools.

Township Committee member, Jolanta Maziarz stated that she is also the liaison to the schools so that she can help with making the communication better. Aparna suggested that PTO presidents could send out email blasts to parents regarding our programs. It was stated that the school has to approve PTO emails before they are sent out to the public and Jolanta said that if the principals have a problem with that they can talk to either her or Joe. As Joe stated to Dr. Mingle prior “your kids are our kids” that we should all be working together to promote each other’s programs that benefits our youth. Jolanta suggested that if we send out blasts through the PTO that we should state that parents can sign up for the weekly news blasts sent out by recreation. Aparna also stated that it may be helpful if we had a liaison to a member on either the BOE or PTO so that a relationship can be built.

Joe discussed that he had a conversation with Aparna about holding an Indian Festival and that timing would be determined. Aparna stated that this would either be a spring or fall event depending on the situation with COVID-19 and that she has vendors and volunteers to help make the event successful. Joe said to contact him again so that they can start talking about details of the event.

Linda Bosco-Devine asked what the status of the Winter Festival for the upcoming year. Joe responded by saying he sent a recommendation to cancel the event to the Township Committee since it would be impossible to try and social distance the crowd with the current orders from the Governor and with the COVID-19 situation. All members agreed that it would be extremely difficult to social distance a large crowd since last year there was about 3,000 attendees. Joe said that we would bring the event back when it is safe to do so. It was also stated that the Letters to Santa event will still happen this year but the set up will be different with volunteers.

Dave Cole asked if the trails are open and Joe responded that they are open and that the Adopt-a-Trail program was postponed due to COVID-19. It was stated that the Township acquired Morecraft Farm on Ferguson Road, which is approximately a 40-acre piece of property with a pond and two structures. Dave asked if there is currently signage there and paths, which Joe responded that there are no paths but there, is a sign.

ADJOURNMENT 7:54 PM Next meeting, Wednesday, November 4, 7 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by: Amanda Altavilla, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary

Director's Report 10/7/2020:

As we continue to add members to our Advisory Comm. I'm hoping to get back to our regularly scheduled meetings. Since our last meeting on June 2nd there has not been a great deal going on due to COVID.

- The dredging project for the Dealaman pond is about to start. It has to start in October or will be put off until next year. We will avoid that at all costs.
- The Pavilion project is in the last stages. Jeff Beer, our architect and I are going over the final details and will report back to the Township committee who will vote to put the plan in motion. I hope that part of the process will be complete before year end. Warren Recreation will run a fundraising campaign for the project. It will start with the Personalized bricks that have surrounded the existing Pavilion and extend that program.
- Summer concert series was a great success, all COVID protocols were followed. I have raised the bar consistently with better bands, and our Eagles concert had an estimated at over 500 people.
- Fall Tennis Instruction has resumed with 84 Children/Adults in the program, with an extensive waiting list. We have had to reduce the size of the classes to no more than 8 in a class due to COVID.
- Pop Warner football and Cheerleading was canceled this fall due to the virus and I created a Speed, Strength and Agility clinic for all ages. There are 2 sessions and the first session on short notice had 45 kids participate.
- Fall Concert: Due to cancellation of programs and events, such as the Winter Festival, we will hold a fall concert for residents. Oct. 17th we will have the "Parrot Beach Band" on the Municipal grounds.