

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ON FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

2019 Board President, Christy Tuper, called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT COMPLIANCE

Ms. Tuper stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public laws of 1975 Chapter 231. It has been properly advertised and certified."

ROLL CALL

Present: Lorraine Card, Kathy Gorman, Ellen Smith, Christy Tuper, Warren Wisse, Darryl Wuhrl

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Warren Wisse and seconded by Lorraine Card, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by Sussex Wantage Girls Softball.

On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Ellen Smith, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by High Point United Soccer Club.

The field use application submitted by Sussex Wantage Little League to use fields at Woodbourne Park for their Opening Day activities was tabled to the March recreation meeting pending their submittal of times for opening day.

On motion by Lorraine Card and seconded by Kathy Gorman, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by Sussex Wantage Little League.

On motion by Warren Wisse, seconded by Darryl Wuhrl, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by Girls On The Run.

On motion by Kathy Gorman, seconded by Lorraine Card, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by Hero Boys Run Club.

On motion by Darryl Wuhrl, seconded by Ellen Smith, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by the Morris Essex Tuesday Senior Softball league.

On motion by Ellen Smith, seconded by Kathy Gorman, the recreation committee approved the field use application submitted by Skylands Sports Club.

The field use application submitted by the Northern New Jersey Saint Bernard Club to use fields at Woodbourne Park was tabled to the March recreation meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mets Bus Trip: Ms. Tuper announced that the Mets bus trip has been scheduled for Sunday, April 28th against the Milwaukee Brewers. Tickets are \$65/person which includes game ticket and transportation to and from the game. Bus will depart from townhall at 10:00 a.m. and return at approximately 6:00 p.m. Seats are field level, and it is a give-away day at Citi-field.

Woodbourne Park: Ms. Tuper stated that the recreation committee has requested from the township that garbage cans be placed by the bathroom receptacles. The park is designated as carry-in/carry-out for garbage, but we are receiving complaints from Septi-Care that garbage is being thrown into their port-a-johns. It has become hazardous to their workers when cleaning them. She asks that the coaches of our local sport organizations please share with the away teams that they need to clean up after themselves after games.

The township Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled at Woodbourne Park for April 7th at 11:00 a.m. with a rain date of April 13th. Sussex Kiwanis has helped sponsor the egg hunt this year by donating half of the eggs purchased. Due to little leagues request to hold their opening day events at Woodbourne Park on April 13th, the recreation committee agrees to move the Easter Egg Hunt rain date to Sunday, April 14th at 1:00 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

On behalf of the Elks Lodge, Warren Wisse presented to Greg Williams a Certificate of Appreciation for 15 years of hard work and dedication serving his community on the Wantage Township Recreation Committee.

Gene Stracco, commissioner of the Morris Essex Tuesday Senior Softball League (METSS), along with Al Celli, assistant commissioner, and David Greenberg, treasurer, presented information about their league as they are looking to form a team in Sussex County. METSS, affiliated with the North Jersey Senior Men's Softball League, is looking for individuals 60 and older to play softball in Sussex County with their home field being at Woodbourne Park in Wantage. There are 270 members in the league with teams established in West Orange, Morristown, Randolph and Montville. Teams are competitive, but mostly have fun and for comradery. Players in the league range in age from 60 to 93. They currently have 14 players who are 80 or older. They have had female players in the past and would welcome them to the team if there were any female residents interested. What they are in need of from the recreation committee is to help them advertise for players. Ms. Tuper stated that we will place flyers and information about their league on our township website and Facebook social media page. For more information, their website is www.northjerseyseniormenssoftballleague.com

Matt Vanderbush, president of Sussex Wantage Little League asked if there has been any discussion within the township for improvements or field renovations of the baseball fields at Lott Road. Ms. Tuper stated she has not heard of any. Mr. Vanderbush says mosquitos are a big problem at those fields. Mrs. Dunn did request to have the area sprayed for mosquitos more frequently last year and says she can contact the county to ask if they can come out on a more regular basis this year. Mr. Vanderbush says the fields are surrounded by swamps so it is an uphill battle.

There is discussion about the township's purchase of the Berry Road property. Jackie Shepherd stated concern that with the purchase of Berry Road, Lott Road will be closed. Ms. Shepherd asked wouldn't it be more cost effective to fix and maintain Lott Road appropriately so residents living in that area have a field that is desirable to go to. The recreation committee responded that they understood Ms. Shepherd's concerns, and Ms. Gorman stated that residents need to attend the township committee meetings to voice their opinions and concerns about our fields in the township.

Carl Nelson, president of High Point United Soccer Club, requested that Field 3 at Woodbourne Park be rested as soon as Fields 5 and 6 are up and running. The field has been overused with the closure of the back fields.

Ms. Tuper announced to the public in attendance that the recreation committee is looking for ideas and events to hold at Lake Neepaulin.

Greg Williams asked the recreation committee if they know when the Veterans Memorial at Woodbourne Park will be fixed. Mrs. Dunn stated she will check with the administrator on the progress, but is aiming to have it complete by May.

There is discussion on the closure of Woodbourne park each night and the locking of the gate.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

The recreation committee acknowledged Gregory Williams who is in attendance of tonight's meeting. Mr. Williams served 15 years on the Wantage Township Recreation Committee and retired as of December 2018. Ms. Tuper mentioned that when Mr. Williams is not overseas defending our country and giving us our liberty and freedoms that we have, he has been here volunteering and helping within our community such as re-roofing the bathrooms at Lott Road, he secured donations to help build our monuments and to provide many other improvements to our parks. She presented him with a framed photo of one of the monuments he helped bring to Wantage Township.

There is discussion on the Wantage pageants. The date for the Little Miss, Little Mr. and Miss Wantage pageants has been scheduled for Saturday, June 8th.

There is discussion on the water treatments at Lake Neepaulin.

There is discussion on benches and picnic tables being donated to Woodbourne Park through a memorial program.

Kathy Gorman discussed that she believes Open Space funds can be used towards maintaining the township's recreation fields under township ordinance #2017-08.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Darry Wuhrl made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2019 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee. Kathy Gorman seconded the motion.

Ayes: Card, Gorman, Smith, Tuper, Wisse, Wuhrl

Nays: None Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Warren Wisse to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Darryl Wuhrl.

Ayes: Card, Gorman, Smith, Tuper, Wisse, Wuhrl

Nays: None Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Dunn,

Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Board Secretary