**Huntingdon Borough Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Huntingdon Borough Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee meeting was held by Webex Conference and broadcasted live on the Borough’s Facebook page.

The Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman David Fortson at 6:06 PM.

Committee members present were Chairman David Fortson (Council Room) and President Johnathan Hyde (Council Room).

Members present were Councilman David Quarry (Council Room), Councilman James Bair (Home on Computer), Borough Manager Chris Stevens (Council Room) and Borough Secretary Richard King (Council Room).

Guest present were Claire Holzner (Home on Computer), Greg Larson (Home on Computer), Elizabeth Smolcic (Home on Computer), Nick Miller (Home on Computer), Celina Seftas, Huntingdon Conservation District (Home on Computer) and Mary Ann Buckley (Home on Computer).

Chairman David Fortson recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Nick Miller spoke for the Friends of Huntingdon Borough Trails Group (FOHBTG).

Nick Miller said they are asking that Borough Council halt the timber cut on Flag Pole Hill and trails.

Nick Miller said the current Management Plan of 2001 should be revised and updated. Nick said the group is willing to work together with Huntingdon Borough on this.

Nick Miller spoke on the endangered species, erosion and habitat. Nick said that due to this you cannot cut between May 1st thru October 31st.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Garner Lumber will not be starting till fall. Chris said that he has met with Celina Seftas and Randy Fickes and they have walked the trails. Chris said that we are changing some of the trees that are marked to not be cut.

Celina Seftas spoke on the technical assistance, proposed harvest, erosion control, written plans on site, best management practice, species and good Forest generation. She said that there are trees that will be unmarked.

Nick Miller asked about the amount of money and asked if this would decrease this.

Celina Seftas said that there are whole new markings and on Meditation Hill where trees were marked they will not be replaced due to low value there.

Nick Miller said that we need to revisit and rewrite the Forest Management Plan.

Chairman David Fortson said this will need to be borough to Borough Council for review.

Nick Miller said that he appreciates Borough Council listening and getting to know the forest.

Elizabeth Smolcic asked about the harvest of trees and asked if we would not cut 10 feet to 30 feet from the trails.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there are some marked that are leaning towards the trails and if they are painted black, they are not to be cut. Chris said that rest assured that Borough Council has in mind recreation and the best interest of the borough and the trails.

Elizabeth Smolcic said there is a big change in economic resources and recreational resources and would like to help create a plan.

Nick Miller asked if we could mark the trails with proper names.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we have applied for grants and we are working on a soft boat launch at Portstown Park, a walkway from Portstown Park to the Dog Park and in the future work towards Juniata College to the trails.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we have a grant for an Amphitheater up on Flag Pole and we are working on restrooms that can be used by anyone walking the trails.

Greg Larson asked what the next step would be. Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that he should work with the Parks Commission. President Johnathan Hyde said that Bob Jackson is the president of the Parks Commission and to get in touch with him.

Nick Miller asked if he could speak at the next Borough Council meeting.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that they are welcome to speak but should go through the Parks & Rec Commission if possible

Chairman David Fortson proceeded to Old Business.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are waiting on the money from the state for the Amphitheater and the grant for the restroom facility.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said for the Blair Park Grant we are waiting on the NPDES Permit.

Celina Seftas asked if this was a General Permit or Individual Permit. Borough Manager Chris Stevens said this is a General Permit.

Chairman David Fortson proceeded to New Business.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Yard Waste area behind Laney’s will be open on Saturdays from 7:00 AM till 12:00 Noon. Chris said that Brad Hollenbaugh will open it during the week.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Brad Hollenbaugh is once again picking up recycling and yard waste that was stopped due to COVID-19.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens asked Nick Miller about the Farmers Market and how it went. Nick said that it was great, that the traffic was spread out, there were a lot of preorders. Nick said that most of the sales was preorders where they would pull up and we would run their items out to them. Nick said that this help with traffic also.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens asked Nick Miller if the preorders were from Saturday 12:00 Noon till Tuesday at 12:00 Noon and Nick said yes.

Mary Ann Buckley reported that the Isett Swimming Pool is usually opened on Memorial Day weekend.

Mary Ann Buckley said there is the concern that is going on with COVID-19, clean up and working conditions. Mary Ann said that the COVID-19 virus does not pass thru water and the guidance of staying 6 feet apart can be used. Mary Ann said she is waiting to go to the Yellow Phase.

Mary Ann Buckley reported that she has spoken with the Isett’s and that they are in agreement with whatever decision we would make.

Mary Ann Buckley said that the pool will need uncovered and the place cleaned up. Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that by not uncovering the pool would be worse if it was not filled up. Chris said that the seating could be spread apart. Mary Ann said she will get a program in place.

Mary Ann Buckley talked on the employment applications and half of them have been returned. She said the pool employees are trying to finish off school and are ready to be an employee of the borough. Mary Ann said that having them ready takes time saying that 10 of them need recertified in CPR and the Red Cross has extended their certifications for 3 months. Mary Ann said that she has contacted an instructor.

The Parks, Recreation and Public Property Committee were in agreement of moving forward and getting the pool ready and employees.

Mary Ann Buckley reported that Mr. Isett said we should have our initial check by May 15, 2020.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens thanked everyone for joining the Webex Conference meeting.

Chairman David Fortson also thanked everyone.

Celina Seftas said that the Conservation District is there to help so give her a call.

The Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary