

**MINUTES**  
**PARK COMMISSION**  
**December 14, 2015**

PRESENT: Jim Pashek, Chairman; Liz Nelson, Jay Troutman, Maria Harrington, Dotty Beckwith, Dotty Nielsen, Jenny Scott, Ex-Officio and Ferd Sauereisen, Ex-Officio

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Dempsey Bruce, PWD Superintendent, Richard Wendell, Resident, and Jeanine Mancuso.

Mr. Pashek called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting.

The following items were discussed:

- Gary Koehler recommended additional trails in Riding Meadow as the frequently-used path is getting worn down and gets muddy in wet weather. He also suggested widening the trails or closing the trails for approx. 6 weeks. It was decided that Liz Nelson and Dempsey Bruce will meet and mark the trees to show a new path; Public Works will use the Ventrac Brush Mower to clear new trails.
- The application for a grant to build a bridge for the new trail caused concern since Fox Chapel does not own the land. In past grants, Bruce Bowden had to prove ownership of the land in order for a grant to be issued. There was discussion of asking The Pittsburgh Field Club to apply for the grant with our assistance. Alex Scott will be asked to talk to The Pittsburgh Field Club regarding this matter.
- Gary Koehler indicated that he is still waiting for the DEP permit to build the park bridges along Squaw Run Road. The Borough's engineering firm is also following up on this and he will contact the state legislators.
- Quotes have been received for a new rock climbing structure at McCahill Park ranging in price from \$11K to \$25K plus an additional fee for mulch and a concrete base. Dotty Beckwith and Liz Nielsen will develop a request for community funding for the next newsletter. Liz Nelson suggested a fund raiser "Fund the Park Walk".
- Thick paper was applied to a large area in Scott Park and then topped with leaves as an experiment to see whether this deterred invasive plants such as stilt grass and garlic mustard. Maria Harrington discussed the need to continue pulling invasives on Trillium Trail within the fenced area. It was also suggested that a landscaping company be hired to assist with the removal with an estimated cost of \$500 to \$1000. Prior to this, Maria will train on the proper removal techniques. Volunteers are used as well. A public works employee will cut all the vines growing on the trees throughout the parks.
- The volunteer garlic mustard pull will be April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Maria Harrington will submit this information for publication in the next Fox Chapel Newsletter.

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- The need for a full-time parks employee was discussed as Maria Harrington had previously emailed a preliminary job description. Other options were mentioned including subcontracting a landscaping company or using Beechwood Farms as a consultant. Gary Koehler and Dotty Beckwith will contact Jim Bonnor of Beechwood Farms to determine interest.
- Brian Shema will no longer be a member of the Parks Commission as he moved out of the Borough. He will not be replaced. There are now 7 members.
- Dempsey Bruce indicated that seeds planted in the pollinator garden would lay dormant until the spring if spread now. Gary Koehler suggested another area be designated for the pollination garden as the current area is too close to Fox Chapel Road. The new area will be identified and the current area may be used to plant wild flowers as it is visible from Fox Chapel Road.
- Earth Day Cleanup will be Saturday, April 23, 2016.
- The Citizens and Friends of Parks day at Seven Springs will be held on March 13, 2016 from 12 to 5. The registration is \$20. The Borough will pay the fee for anyone interested in attending.
- It was reported that Alex Scott had suggested a volunteer trail steward program which would identify a volunteer to take responsibility to oversee a trail and report downed trees, keep the trail clear, pick up litter, etc. The committee liked the suggestion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

JEANINE MANCUSO