

**MINUTES
PARK COMMISSION
January 21, 2015**

PRESENT: Jim Pashek Chairmen; Ferd Sauereisen, Liz Nelson, Jay Troutman, Brian Shema, Maria Harrington, Nancy Fales, Members.

ABSENT: Jenny Scott, Dotty Beckwith, Dotty Nielsen, Members.

ALSO

PRESENT: Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Dempsey Bruce, PWD Superintendent, Debbie Stitt, Assistant Borough Secretary.

Mr. Pashek called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

The following items were discussed:

- Mr. Pashek gave an update on the bridge/trail grants. The Borough must bid the projects if a COSTARS contract is not available. Mr. Pashek will review bridge designs soon. Building of the bridges and trails should take place late summer, early fall 2015. Mr. Pashek gave a summary of the grants awarded, the Borough's matching funds and Public Works costs.
- Mrs. Harrington gave an update on the pollinator gardens at Salamander Park. Mrs. Harrington stated that grants are available and is willing to be the project manager. The Commission agreed with her approach.
- Earth Day and the garlic mustard pulls will be combined this spring and information will be included in the spring newsletter. Mrs. Harrington stated she would like an article included in the Herald. Mrs. Nelson agreed to contact the high school seeking volunteers.
- Mayor Scott received approval from Pittsburgh Field Club and Shady Side Academy for the trail from Scott Park to Riding Meadow Park. Mr. Pashek stated the Pittsburgh Trail Advisory Group is willing to volunteer to clear the brush. He will check with them as to when they can start this project.
- Improvements were discussed for the McCahill playground. Mr. Bruce stated that the Public Works Department can replace the stepping logs at McCahill Park. After discussion, the Park Commission agreed to compile a needs list and then solicit donations. It was suggested to start with the District Association to see if they can assist. Mrs. Harrington volunteered to write an article for the upcoming newsletter.

- Mr. Bruce stated that Mrs. Folino contacted him asking if she and some volunteers would be able to place a fence the length of the Riding Meadow Park entrance, possibly with a “zig-zag” opening, to help prevent dogs from running into the street. Mrs. Folino and the volunteers would pay for the cost. After discussion, the Park Commission decided that they would like to review a plan before making their decision.
- A sub-committee was formed to discuss the issues regarding dogs and the Borough parks. The recommendations were presented to the Park Commission, and the following recommendations to Council were decided:
 - Increase parking control with permits at Old Squaw/Old Mill, Hidden Falls and the Guyasuta connector on Squaw Run Road. Mr. Shema agreed to review the idea of permits for parking by dog walkers at Beechwood Farms. He would also consider the sale of the dog permits by Beechwood employees similar to the library arrangement.
 - “Unleashed Dog Area” signs with bold lettering need to be installed at a distance from the access points to all off leash areas. Mr. Bruce and Mr. Koehler agreed to determine the number of signs and locations.
 - Include an article in an upcoming newsletter that defines “out of control” vs. “in control” dogs.
- Park Commission is considering a long-range plan to create a bypass for runners, hikers, and children to avoid Riding Meadow Park. It was noted that the Christ Church driveway might be a possible access point.

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

Debbie Lee Stitt
Assistant Borough Secretary