

West Goshen Township  
Park and Recreation Board  
September 20, 2023

**Attending:** Eunice Alexander, Bob Cifone, Tim McNally, Jerry Napiecek, Mike Pillagalli, and Ed Smith

**Township Representatives:** Ken Lehr and Tom Steines

**Public Representatives:** Janet Vokoun (pickleball advocate) and Douglas White

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by chair Jerry Napiecek.

This meeting was advertised in The Daily Local News on December 19, 2022.

This meeting agenda was posted on the West Goshen Township website and at the Township Building on Monday, September 18, 2023.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from the August 16, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Bob Cifone and seconded by Mike Pillagalli.

The Treasury Report for August 31, 2023 was reviewed without discussion or questions.

**Parks Department:** Ken Lehr, reporting for Dorine McClune, indicated there were no new updates at this time. Jerry Napiecek stated the Community Park looks great.

**Summer Recreation Program:** Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Recreation Program, indicated there were no updates to report at this time and stated he is looking forward to next year.

**Teen Program:** Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Teen Program, indicated there were no updates to report at this time and stated he is looking forward to next year.

**Friends of West Goshen Parks:** Jerry Napiecek, reporting for the Friends of West Goshen Parks, informed that the Board of Directors meeting scheduled on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> had to be rescheduled due to a lack of a quorum. The meeting is now planned for Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building first floor conference room.

**Old Business:** Ken Lehr reporting on 2023 fall bus trips informed the October 1<sup>st</sup> trip to Citi Field to see the Phillies take on the New York Mets had to be cancelled, noting only four people registered for the trip. Jerry Napiecek asked if the Township was still responsible for paying the bus company even though the trip was cancelled. Ken Lehr indicated the Township was not responsible for any payment to the bus company. Additionally, Ken Lehr informed the New York Mets bought back ten of the tickets purchased for the trip and stated the remaining tickets would be put on SeatGeek for

resale. Ken Lehr reported there are only seven seats remaining for the October 15<sup>th</sup> trip to MetLife Stadium to see the Eagles take on the New York Jets. There are roughly 10-20 people per trip signed up for the remaining fall trips that include the October 29<sup>th</sup> trip to FedEx Field to see the Eagles take on the Washington Commanders, the December 2<sup>nd</sup> “New York on your own” trip and the November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> trips to Radio City Music Hall.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Fall Movie Series, said around 100 people attended the presentation of “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Information on the Fall Movie Series is listed below:

Date	Movie	Location	Attendance
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse	Community Park	100
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The Little Mermaid	TBD	TBD
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Guardians of the Galaxy, Volume 3	TBD	TBD
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Elemental	TBD	TBD
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Super Mario Brothers	TBD	TBD

Ken Lehr, reporting on Harvest Day, informed that this year’s event is scheduled for Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Community Park. Ken Lehr indicated he has lined up the moonbounce and Mabel’s Barbeque to come out for this year’s event. All volunteers are asked to arrive at noon to help out with the set-up for the event. Jerry Napiecek informed that Peggy Niemeyer, a longtime member of the Friends of West Goshen Parks will be resigning after the Township’s Harvest Day festivities. Jerry Napiecek stated that Peggy Niemeyer has been instrumental in providing support for the Friends for over 26 years and suggested some type of formal recognition for all her years of service should be planned as part of this event. Jerry Napiecek suggested the presentation of a plaque commemorating Peggy’s service would be appropriate. Mike Pillagalli suggested also including a flower arrangement. Eunice Alexander suggested a fruit and nut basket would be another option. Bob Cifone indicated he was in favor of a plaque displaying Peggy’s name and years of volunteer service to the Township suggesting the plaque should be located within one of the Township parks preferably at the Community Park gazebo. Ken Lehr stated he would look to identify a good spot to hang the plaque at the gazebo. Township resident Janet Vokoun suggested the proposed plaque should contain a list of Peggy’s accomplishments. Jerry Napiecek indicated he would circulate an email to the Park and Recreation Board members to solicit additional suggestions.

Ken Lehr reporting on the West Goshen Resident Art Exhibit informed both floors of the Administration Building will feature paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, quilts, needlepoints and more throughout the months of September and October.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the dedication of the Municipal Courtyard in memory of Dr. Robert White, said he would be meeting with Douglas White immediately after the conclusion of the Park and Recreation Board meeting.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the 2023 Summer Concert Series, said around 250 people attended the August 20<sup>th</sup> concert featuring Whiskey Logic. Ken Lehr indicated he would like to schedule the wrap-up

meeting for the 2023 Summer Concert Series at 5:30 PM on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the October Park and Recreation Board meeting. Jerry Napiecek asked if it would be an option to hold the wrap up meeting immediately after the October Park and Recreation Board meeting. The members of the Park and Recreation Board indicated they would prefer the wrap up meeting to be scheduled immediately after the October Park and Recreation Board meeting. Information on the Summer Concert Serie is listed below:

Date	Theme	Featured Performer	Location	Attendance
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Children’s Concert	Steve Pullara and Cool Beans Music	Community Park	70+
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Party Band	Greaseband	Community Park	200
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Latin America	De Tierra Caliente	Fugett Middle School	15
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Big Band	West Chester Concert Band	Community Park	200
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Motown	Blue Philly Magic	Community Park	750
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Party Tunes	Whiskey Logic	Community Park	250

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Parks Tour with the Board of Supervisors and the Friends of West Goshen Parks, informed the tour took place on Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Ken Lehr indicated the Board of Supervisors were very appreciative of the opportunity to see the West Goshen Township Parks in person. Ken Lehr reported Board of Supervisor Ashley Gagné asked if it would be possible to schedule another Park Tour for the members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Ken Lehr reporting on the West Goshen Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Planning Committee, informed that the Township has received eight proposals from vendors to create a master plan for the Township. Ken Lehr indicated he would meet with Township Manager Chris Bashore the end of the week to review the proposals and narrow down the list of viable candidates to do the work. The target would be to line up the vendor interview process by the end of October or soon after. Douglas White asked if anything from the last master plan from 1990 will be carried forward in the new master plan. Ken Lehr stated the new master plan will contain an inventory of the Township Parks; the amenities included in the Township Parks as well as identifying what is needed in the community. Ken Lehr informed that Allison Bonjo, Jerry Napiecek, and Ed Smith would be the representatives from the Park and Recreation Board that will serve on this new committee. Douglas White asked if there are amenities the Township may want to consider adding to our existing Township parks. Ed Smith suggested the Township could consider adding a zipline, stating the East Goshen Township Park and West Chester’s Everhart Park both have this popular feature. Ken Lehr noted he is a fan of adding a Community Garden somewhere in the Township. Bob Cifone informed that Rose Tree Park has a huge Community Garden that has over 100 plots. Ken Lehr indicated there may be options within the Greystone property for a Community Garden. Douglas White asked if there is any interest in adding tetherball or street hockey features to one or more of the Township parks. Ken Lehr stated he did not think there was a demand for tetherball and added the Skate Park serves as an option for Street Hockey. Bob Cifone informed Downingtown has Frisbee Golf which appears to be a very popular item.

Ken Lehr provided a pickleball update informing the relining of the Tennis Courts at the Community Park for pickleball usage will not happen until after the Tennis Courts are repaved as part of the Parks Improvement initiative. Ken Lehr indicated he and Dorine McClune are looking for funds in the current budget to cover the cost of this effort. Janet Vokoun asked what is the timeline for this work and is some type of grant funding required. Ken Lehr reported the relining of the Community Park tennis courts for pickleball usage will take place sometime after the repaving is done and will not require grant funding. Ken Lehr noted grant funding would likely be required to develop new dedicated pickleball courts. Tim McNally estimated the Township could fit six pickleball courts in the area occupied by the tennis courts at Community Park. Douglas White asked if the tennis courts at Community Park are well utilized. Tom Steines indicated the tennis courts at Community Park and Lambert Park are well utilized. Janet Vokoun informed the last time she checked, one of the tennis courts at the Community Park and 8 of the tennis courts at the East Goshen Park were being utilized. Janet Vokoun asked if there is a spot in the Township where new dedicated pickleball courts could be located. Jerry Napiecek stated identifying a spot for dedicated pickleball courts is going to be part of the new master plan and indicated the Lambert Park Dog Park may be a viable site if a new Dog Park location can be identified. Ken Lehr informed there may be a space available in the Greystone development that the Township has not taken possession of yet. Janet Vokoun asked if the Township would consider converting the existing basketball courts at the Community Park to pickleball courts. Tim McNally stated he likes the idea of relining the basketball courts for pickleball usage because unlike the tennis courts, there are not existing nets to work around. Ken Lehr indicated converting the basketball courts is not an option. Janet Vokoun indicated that currently, residents looking for tennis courts have options in addition to the Community Park that include Henderson and East High schools where as residents looking for pickleball courts have no options within the Township.

Ken Lehr reporting on the dogpark and skatepark informed that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Eunice Alexander, reporting on the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT) informed she would need to meet with Dorine McClune to pick out what trees will be required to replace the diseased ash trees at Coopersmith Park. Jerry Napiecek offered thanks to Eunice Alexander for the excellent commentary she provided during the Park Tour with the Board of Supervisors and the Friends of West Goshen Parks. Specifically, the information provided during the visits to Barker Park and Hamlet Crest Park highlighted the work being accomplished by the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT).

**New Business:** Ken Lehr, reporting on the Holiday Decorations Workshop, informed that Kelly Cifone and Allison Bonjo are onboard for this year's program scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Holiday Breakfast with Santa, informed that he has lined up Timothy's for this year's Holiday Breakfast scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Lehr reported that the Township's 2023 Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Goal Line Pub. Ken Lehr asked everyone to RSVP by the end of today.

Douglas White informed that it was his understanding that the Township has removed the \$850,000 line item in next year's Capital Budget Plan for a new Maintenance Building at the Greystone development. Ken Lehr informed that the Board of Supervisors do not want to move forward with this expense until the Township occupies the property at Greystone and determine what is needed in the 2026-2027 timeframe. Bob Cifone indicated that is a lot of money for the building. Douglas White stated the Township is not sure who will be doing the maintenance of the open space park areas. This could require the Township to need a storage facility for Gators and other equipment required to keep the walking paths clean and maintained. Bob Cifone asked why the Township is dragging their feet on the dedication of the open space at Greystone. Douglas White indicated they don't want to move forward with the formal dedication at this time because of concern construction vehicles could damage the surface of Aram Avenue which the Township would be responsible for after the formal dedication.

Ken Lehr informed that he has talked with the Building Superintendent requesting an overhaul of the sign in front of the Administration Building on Paoli Pike. Ken Lehr noted if this request is not approved, it will likely go into next year's Capital Budget Plan. Ken Lehr indicated he told Township Manager Chris Bashore the existing sign is a hazard. Bob Cifone stated the Township should replace this sign with a new digital sign like the one at the Community Park.

A motion to adjourn was made by Eunice Alexander and seconded by Bob Cifone to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward T Smith