PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, JOHN BURCH, LAUREN SANKER, RYAN BROWN, DANIEL HARRISON – MEMBERS; Paul Rigney, Township Commissioner; Scott Fraser, Assistant Township Manager; Chad Krebs, Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

VISITORS
None.

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
All present introduced themselves.

MINUTES
A motion was made by Mr. Burch to approve the meeting minutes from the October 23, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanker and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. Williams commended the Board of Commissioners for providing ample amount of money for the park projects, noting that it ensures the projects are done right. He said this will be Commissioner Rigney’s last meeting and he thanked him for the support. Mr. Burch echoed Mr. Williams’ comments and thanked Commissioner Rigney for being open-minded, and said he really appreciated all the work he has done for the Township. Ms. Sanker stated that Commissioner Rigney deserves to have free time again. Commissioner Rigney said he is hoping to somehow maintain a relationship with the Park and Recreation Board, and he expressed an idea about adopting a park. Mr. Williams stated that it can be put onto the agenda for an idea down the line.

Mr. Williams mentioned that come January, selections for the Chairman and Vice Chairman will happen, and he asked the board to keep that in mind.
CHAIRMAN’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. **Township Commissioners—Paul Rigney**
   Commissioner Rigney mentioned that he feels the Township is not quite ready for a risk park but there is a middle ground in a natural park which can be built for a small price. He added that he visited Winding Hill North Park and noticed a lot of the older children playing on the boulders, so it would be something else for them to do and he feels it’s worth pursuing. Mr. Burch agreed and said he always sees the children on the boulders. Mr. Fraser mentioned that a natural park is doable, and a possible location would be Simpson Park, as the playground there only has the climbing rock. Mr. Krebs said if it is declared a playground, then it must have some sort of surfacing like wood mulch or rubber mulch.

2. **Assistant Township Manager – Scott Fraser**
   No comments.

3. **Park Maintenance Supervisor– Chad Krebs**
   No comments.

4. **Mechanicsburg Recreation Department– Tonya Brown**
   Absent

PARK ASSIGNMENTS
Mr. Williams mentioned that he feels the metal swings at Country Estates Park need to be checked again.

Mr. Burch stated that he noticed a lot of people out walking their dogs at Simpson Park. He added that the bird structure that was collapsing was removed, and everything else looked fine. Mr. Fraser mentioned that the board should come up with a policy direction for scout projects since the bird structure was one and had to be removed. He added that they are usually not built to commercial specs; therefore, they do not always hold up that well. He said an idea is to send out letters to the boy scout troops that did the project either asking them to fix the project, or take it down.

Mr. Burch mentioned that Center Square Park was freshly mowed and looked good.

Mr. Harrison said the Winding Hill Parks looked good and that people were out walking their dogs. Commissioner Rigney mentioned that he noticed the new trees and they look very nice with the mulch around them. Mr. Fraser added that they noticed some sinking areas on the play surface at Winding Hill North playground; however, it is under warranty and will be replaced.

Ms. Sanker mentioned that Grantham Park looked great.

Mr. Brown said Friendship Park looked great and that the portable lights used by soccer are off to the side of the parking lot, ready to be picked up. He mentioned that Rosegarden Park looked good, but he was wondering why there wasn’t a guard around the edge of the playground. Mr. Fraser stated that it was taken out because of age but could be replaced.

PUBLIC INPUT
None
OLD BUSINESS

1. Off-Leash Dog Park Committee Update
Mr. Burch mentioned that there is an Open House taking place over the Thanksgiving weekend and he reminded the board to let people who have dogs know about it. He added that he has seen people there on the weekends and that the Eagle Scout project consisting of benches around the trees is now complete. Mr. Williams mentioned that in the afternoons there seems to be a good-sized group of people that go to the park and while they might not know each other’s names, they seem to know the names of the other dogs there.

2. Joint Recreation Agreement
Commissioner Rigney said he is no longer on the negotiation committee, but he said in his opinion he is pretty sure there will be an agreement. He added that the main focus is to make sure that the Township has a voice.

3. Spring Run and Miller’s Crest Playground Equipment
Mr. Fraser said some of the equipment has already been delivered and will be stored for the winter, but they are hoping to start the work at the playgrounds in February, weather permitting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Susquehanna Valley Federal Credit Union (SVFCU) Community Summer Carnival Request - Mr. Fraser sent the board a copy of an email from Susquehanna Valley Federal Credit Union (SVFCU) with a request to hold a summer carnival at Winding Hill North Park. He said a representative will come to a meeting to discuss it more, but they wanted to first get approval. All agreed that it is a good idea.

2. Park Ordinance Drafts Review
Mr. Fraser mentioned that there have been a few changes to Chapter 175 since it was last brought to the board. He said some of the things added include no cleats on play surfaces, no skateboarding on tennis courts, etc. He added that it also now covers the permitting for field use and defines what an organized activity is. He mentioned that it now lists that smoking and alcohol are prohibited in the parks. Commissioner Rigney questioned why alcohol is listed as prohibited since it was considered before for a possible wedding in the park. Mr. Fraser said he could allow it but with several provisions. Mr. Burch said he doesn’t see a need to allow alcohol in the parks. Mr. Fraser said a certain park and area of the park could be designated as the only place allowed, but again, there would be provisions including the requirement to have your own police officer present and to provide proof of insurance for it. The board agreed that they do not want to allow alcohol in the parks for events. Mr. Fraser mentioned that the section that addresses allowing a sound system in the parks limits it to certain time frames and for only a four-hour time block. He asked board members to look over the drafts and email him any comments so that they can be finalized soon.

3. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant Award
Mr. Fraser announced that the Township was awarded $200,000 for Friendship Park playground improvements. He thanked Township staff members Megan McNamee and John Toner for their help in writing the grant. Mr. Williams said the Township has an excellent reputation with DCNR and these parks are a large asset to the Township. Mr. Fraser stated that his plan is to keep the board involved every month during the process.
He said the equipment will be purchased at the end of December 2020 and construction will start early in 2021. He added that he would like to get more public input as well as the board’s input for the project. He said the project will include the drainage underneath the playground, a poured in place surface, all new equipment, a split rail fence along the back, and sidewalks.

4. **December Meeting**
   Mr. Williams mentioned that the last few years the December meeting has been cancelled and he asked the Board if they wanted to cancel it for this year. The Board agreed to cancel the December meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The next meeting will be held on January 29, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary