

**MEETING LOCATION: HYBRID MEETING
 PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD ROOM AND ZOOM**

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present were Mr. Ken Hickman, Mr. Rich Koch and Mr. Greg Turner. Mr. Barry Bram was absent. Ms. Cindy Solic, Patton Township representative to the Centre Region Parks&Rec Authority (CRPRA) was present (via zoom). Staff members present were Ms. Susan Wheeler, Project Manager and Ms. Alexandra Castrechini, Director of Engineering, Zoning & Planning/Township Engineer. Mr. Derek Aggleton, President of the Centre County Disc Golf Association (CCDGA) was present (via zoom). Member of the public present (via zoom) was Mr. Jim Payne.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the February Recreation Advisory Committee minutes was made by Mr. Koch and seconded by Mr. Hickman. All members voted in favor of the adoption of the minutes.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE POSTED AGENDA

The Chair asked the Committee members if they wanted to add any agenda items that are not already on the agenda. No items were added to the agenda.

Any Committee member wishing to add an item to the agenda shall ask for recognition by the Chair and shall make a motion to add an item, including stating the nature of the item and reason for changing the agenda. If the motion is seconded, the Chair shall oversee discussion and a vote on the motion to add the item. If the motion is approved by a majority vote of the individuals present and voting, the item shall be added to the agenda. The Chair shall determine the placement of the added item within the meeting agenda.

4. CENTRE COUNTY DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION – CIRCLEVILLE AND BERNEL ROAD PARK DISC GOLF COURSES

Mr. Derek Aggleton, President of the Centre County Disc Golf Association (CCDGA) was present to talk about the CCDGA and the disc golf courses at Bernel Road Park and Circleville Park.

The CCDGA is now a 501c3 non-profit organization. The membership of the CCDGA has grown tremendously and they play a lot at the two courses in Patton Township, but they also play at the Harvest Fields course in Boalsburg. The Harvest Fields course is a privately owned 18 hole disc golf course owned by the Calvary Church but is open to anyone in the public for free play. The CCDGA does a lot of volunteer work at the Harvest Fields course to help with maintenance and so on. Many players have the UDisc app and data on course usage can be tracked. In March, ninety-seven (97) unique players used the Bernel Road Park course.

Over the years, the CCDGA have been talking with Centre Region Parks and Rec (CRPR) about maintenance of the courses at both Bernel Road Park and Circleville Park.

The CCDGA feels that there are problems with current maintenance. The fairways have been mowed at a very narrow width and are narrower than they were when the courses were first constructed. Some fairways at Bernel are now as narrow as 15 feet and the “rough” is allowed to grow very high so that it is difficult for players to stay on the fairways. Both courses are considered beginner courses by the CCDGA and it is difficult for beginners to play in these conditions.

Ms. Wheeler commented that the original width of all the fairways to be mowed has been allowed to narrow.

The Committee discussed these concerns and agreed that the fairways should be mowed wider and that the rough either be mowed all the time as well or be mowed regularly to keep a height of no more than 6 inches. The rationale for this is the following:

- There is a huge increase in play at the courses, and they should be maintained to encourage more use.
- The rough is becoming a health and human safety issue because of the rise of ticks and Lyme Disease.
- Too many discs are getting lost by the payers and a recreational facility should encourage a sport, not discourage it.
- The township has spent money building the only two (2) public courses in the region and players from the entire community use them, so they should be maintained at the same level as the maintenance for facilities like softball, soccer, sand volleyball and so on.

Mr. Payne commented that the vegetation should be mowed lower in the rough to help combat ticks, lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Mr. Aggleton commented that a few of their members have contracted lyme disease from playing disc golf.

The Committee asked Ms. Wheeler to draft a letter to CRPR asking for a meeting and walk-through and asking that a new maintenance plan be adopted. At Circleville Park, the Committee would like everything mowed at the same time and at Bernel Road Park the Committee would like the fairways mowed wider and the rough mowed monthly to keep the height of the vegetation lower than six (6) inches.

Ms. Wheeler reminded the Committee that the areas around holes 4-5, 9 -12 and 14 – 16 are harvested for hay by Mr. Crust. She will contact Mr. Crust and talk about his harvesting schedule.

5. SCOTIA ROAD SHARED USE PATH SCOPING STUDY/ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS UPDATE

Wilson Consulting Group (Wilson) was retained as the design professional for the Scotia Road Shared Use Path Alternatives Analysis Study. On March 30, 2022 the kick-off meeting was held at the Patton Township offices with Nate McCulloch, PE of Wilson leading the discussion.

Ms. Wheeler summarized the meeting with the following key points:

- Local Concerns Meeting to be held on April 20 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm (hybrid).
- Collection of traffic data, topography, ROW, utility etc. to take place in late April.
- Development of conceptual alternatives will occur from May through early June.
- The RAC will be presented with alternatives at the June 21, 2022 RAC meeting.
- The second public meeting will be held in June.
- The RAC will make recommendation of one (1) route to the Board of Supervisors in July.
- Develop preliminary cost estimate of the alternative selected by the Board.

6. SPIN E-BIKE PROGRAM

In 2021, Penn State Transportation Services partnered with the Borough of State College and Spin, a San Francisco-based micro-mobility unit of Tier Mobility, to offer the Penn State and State College Borough communities a new bike-share program. Ms. Cecily Zhu, Penn State's Sustainable Transportation Program Manager has been the lead in this project. Ms. Wheeler contacted Ms. Zhu to discuss the possibility of extending the program into the Toftrees neighborhood of Patton Township.

Spin's electric-assist bike (e-bike) program has a fleet of 300 e-bikes that can travel within Penn State and parts of the State College Borough. E-bike parking locations have been established to offer both Penn State and community members convenient access to the e-bikes. Users can see all e-bike locations in the Spin app, as well as a map of the service area. Spin e-bikes have a maximum electric-assist speed of 20 miles per hour (mph) with the speed being capped at 15 mph on campus. Speeds are automatically capped based on geofenced speed zones (similar to how no-ride and parking zones in the program are applied). The e-bikes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rental fees apply for e-bike use. E-bikes cannot be ridden outside the current service area. If an e-bike attempts to exit the boundary of the geofence, the e-bike stops working.

Penn State Arboretum lands are at the boundary of Penn State lands where that boundary meets Patton Township. At this common boundary the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail (BCRT) leaves the Arboretum lands and continues into Patton Township to serve the Toftrees neighborhood. During the meeting between Ms. Zhu, Spin and Ms. Wheeler, it became apparent that the McKee Street Bike Trail goes into Ferguson Township before going back into Arboretum lands and on to Patton Township lands.

Ms. Wheeler met (virtually) with Mr. Dave Modricker, the Public Works Director at Ferguson Township to ask if there would be a possibility of Ferguson Township also entering into an agreement with Spin so this route could be accomplished. Mr. Modricker will explore this with the Ferguson Township Manager and their Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Zhu has indicated that the University would be happy to expand into this area if the details of the program can be worked out with Patton Township and Ferguson Township.

The Committee would like to staff to continue to explore the different issues that need to be resolved. If all issues can be resolved, the Committee agreed they would make a positive recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to extend a route into Toftrees.

7. MAY IS BIKE MONTH

May is Bike Month and the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution designating May as Bike Month at their March 23, 2022 meeting. The Committee held a virtual Bike Chat in May 2021.

The Committee would like to hold a virtual Bike Chat in May. Ms. Wheeler will contact Ms. Trish Meek of the Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) to discuss potential May dates.

8. MAY PARKS TOUR

Historically, the Committee has held a spring and fall parks tour. Since March of 2020, one (1) virtual tour was held and one (1) in-person tour was held.

The Committee discussed the tour and decided they would like to visit the Harvest Fields disc golf course and the Bernel Road Park disc golf course. Ms. Wheeler will arrange for a van with CRPR and ask Mr. Aggleton of the CCDGA to lead the tour so that the disc golf issues can be explored more fully.

9. TREEPENNSYLVANIA GRANT

A grant application was submitted to the TreePennsylvania spring program for fifteen (15) trees. The grant application was successful, and the Township accepted delivery of the trees on April 7. The trees were planted along the Circleville Road Bike Path. To date (since fall 2020), fifty-seven (57) trees have been planted in township parks and along Shared Use Paths using this grant program.

10. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY – CEDAR CLIFF PARK

A request has been made by the Cedar Cliff Homeowner's Association (HOA) to construct and erect a *Little Free Library* in Cedar Cliff Park. The HOA will purchase the library and install it with volunteer labour from the neighborhood.

The Committee discussed this request and agreed to the installation.

11. REGIONAL PARKS ISSUES UPDATE

Ms.Solic provided the following update:

- The Whitehall Regional Park groundbreaking will take place at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, April 27, 2022
- The CRPR Staffing Study has been completed by Ms. Sue Landes of Recreation and Parks Solutions.
- CRPR is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State College Area School District (SCASD).
- The SCASD tennis court agreement for the school tennis courts on W. Prospect Ave. has been updated.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Koch said that in Florida he saw a pickleball complex called "Pickleplex" and the sport is booming in that state.

13. ADJOURN

Mr. Hickman made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, beginning at 4:00 pm. This will be the Spring Parks Tour.