

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – JULY 14, 2020

A special meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held remotely on July 14, 2020. Mr. Krauss called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: Douglas Krauss, Chair (left meeting in progress)  
Michael Brody, Secretary  
Patricia Bunn, Member  
David Malinowski, Member  
Kimberly Rock, Member

Others: Monica Tierney, Park & Recreation Director  
James McCartney, Supervisor Liaison

Absent: Mike Blundi, Park & Rec Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Park & Rec Member

MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT DISCUSSION AND MOTION TO APPROVE

Ms. Tierney stated they started meeting with Ms. Ellen Saracini early on about some of the projects that needed to be done at Memorial Park. She stated they are now able to do some of the things that Ms. Saracini was able to put together.

Ms. Saracini thanked the Board for taking the time to talk about moving forward with the Garden revitalization project. She stated they are coming up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attacks on our Nation. She stated the project began because the Garden and areas within Memorial Park need to have some updates. She stated when they realized everything that needed to be done, the project grew.

Ms. Saracini stated they approached the Bucks County Technical High School about having their students work on a summer program. She stated they are working under a SLIP Grant, and this allows the students to work for eight weeks in the summer Monday through Thursday. She stated they have a significant amount of work for them to do at the Park. She stated they have a group of students working at this time, and they are looking to broaden that number in the next few weeks.

Ms. Vera Ramanous stated she is a student at the Bucks County Technical High School, and she is happy to be working on this project taking care of something so important.

Ms. Saracini stated they have also partnered with Ivin's Outreach Center. Ms. Darletta Berry-Johnson stated Ivin's Outreach Center is happy to be partnering and helping with the oversight and management of the students in the summer program. She stated she oversees the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grants that are in several Lower Bucks County Schools. She stated the hope is to expose the students to everyday work experiences to prepare them for college and real life. She stated this was a "perfect marriage for 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Ivin's. She stated they are providing snacks for the students and staff, and they pay for the staff that is working with the students Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. She stated with Board approval, they would like to start reaching out to volunteers who would work on the projects during the day so that there is more help. She stated since there are young people on site, background checks and clearances would be needed; and they would work to do that to make the project successful. She stated the Administration at the Technical School is hopeful that the students will still be able to be involved during the School year after School hours and on weekends.

Ms. Berry-Johnson stated Ivin's is located in Morrisville, and their goal is to support the community.

Ms. Saracini stated without Ms. Berry-Johnson a lot of this work would not be possible because it is the Grant work and organization from Ivin's Outreach Center that enables them to work with the Tech School and have the students come out.

Ms. Saracini introduced Mr. Eric Stark, a Board member of the 9-11 Memorial Garden of Reflection. Mr. Stark thanked the Park & Recreation Board for putting together this special meeting. He also thanked their partners including Ms. Berry-Johnson who does an outstanding job. He stated he was put on their payroll this summer to help supervise and mentor the students from the Tech School. He stated the students are doing a great job and working very hard. He stated as noted previously, they are looking for additional help as they go into the next phase of the project which is to prepare the pathways for the Porous Pave donation.

Ms. Saracini stated there are two major projects that they are doing. She stated one of the projects involves the berms where there has been destruction due to a vole issue. She stated they were pleased to find that significant new growth came back this spring. She stated the Township estimate for this project had been approximately \$50,000; and that cost has been “wiped away,” and the students are working on this project. Ms. Saracini stated the number one priority is re-defining the walkways behind the Garden of Reflection leading into the oak garden arboretum. She stated initially the walkways were beautiful and peaceful to walk on. She stated they were red tipple; but after time grass grew over it and the tipple was washing away. She stated there are now portions of the walkways that are hazardous to walk on. She stated by using the porous paving, they will be “changing the dynamics” of what has been happening. She stated the paving will not wash away, and they will now be able to invite handicapped individuals to traverse on all of the walkways where previously they were not able to maneuver over the red tipple.

Mr. Krauss thanked Ms. Saracini for all her efforts and what she has been able to accomplish with this project. He stated they are all very excited about this project which will be a great renovation to the site and a major upgrade. He stated he is also very excited about partnering with these groups and the cost savings. Mr. Krauss stated while he is unable to stay for the rest of the meeting, he knows that the other Board members will ask any appropriate questions and consider anything that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Mike Brody thanked everyone adding he is very excited about this project.

Mr. Stark asked if they will still have a quorum since they need to have a recommendation from the Park & Recreation Board to the Board of Supervisors in time for tomorrow evening’s Board of Supervisors meeting. Ms. Tierney stated they do have a quorum.

Mr. Krauss left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Tierney stated the students have started working at the Park already including clean-up work, but they have not worked on defining the trails yet. She stated they will discuss this evening the porous paving piece of the project and how that will proceed.

Ms. Saracini stated the Park & Recreation Board received the letter from the 9-11 Garden of Reflection Board which outlines the issues that were at the Garden. She stated the most prominent need is the walkways. A slide was shown of the red tippie walkway, and it can be seen that it is down to the fabric in places. She stated it is also difficult to determine where the walkways are in some locations. She stated the goal is to get the walkways back to their original width and provide accessibility.

A slide was shown of the berms which are also an issue. Ms. Saracini stated in the fall they felt that they had lost most of the junipers on the berm; however, new growth has come in. She stated while they are severely compromised, they believe that they have resolved the vole issue. She stated the students are now cutting out all of the compromised material, and they will be able to see all of the new growth. She stated a determination will be made going forward if they need to install some additional junipers.

A slide was shown of the entrance to Memorial Park; and Ms. Saracini stated given the current situation with COVID, there have been issues with maintenance. She stated work will be done on the front entranceway.

A slide was shown of the flag circle area where a significant number of weeds can be seen. Ms. Saracini stated the students have been working on removing weeds, and there will be trimming and transplanting when the weather allows.

A slide was shown of the significant amount of compromised branches that have been removed. Ms. Saracini stated there will be another collection of materials to be removed this week as well.

A slide was shown of part of the oak garden. Ms. Saracini stated branches have been brought up so you can walk underneath and compromised branches have been removed. A picture of the front entrance was shown; and Ms. Saracini stated given the prevailing winds, there has been impact on the trees, so they are staking the trees so that they become upright again.

A slide was shown of the walkways. Ms. Saracini stated they require maintenance which includes power washing. She stated the students will be power washing the walkways. She stated there are also places where plant material is missing, and they will be doing planting when the weather permits to make it look uniform again.

A slide was shown of the donor wall, and Ms. Saracini stated mulch has built up so that you cannot see the donation names at the bottom. She stated this area will be re-defined so that the names can be seen. She stated painting also needs to be done.

A slide of the Memorial Park Site Plan was shown. Ms. Saracini specifically noted the marked trail which comes around the Garden of Reflection and leads into the oak garden. She stated it can be seen that there are multiple walkways. She noted the area where the honey locusts are located and a plaza, and she stated all of the walkways will be re-done in this area. She stated it is a massive effort which requires a lot of coordination.

Ms. Saracini stated they received a very generous donation from Porous Pave. She stated Porous Pave heard about this project; and since 9-11 meant something to them, they indicated that they would be happy to partner with the Township. She stated they have given a \$100,000 donation, donating all of the porous paving material to be installed. She stated the students will be putting the base layer of stone down and will be doing the application of the porous paving which will provide them with a life skill and to learn a trade.

Mr. Matt Lamb from Porous Pave was present with Jim Daulerio, the Porous Pave local representative who resides within approximately thirty minutes of the project and has been active selling hundreds of thousands of square feet of this material within the area. Mr. Lamb stated 9-11 left a permanent impression on his mind and on the owner of the company's mind so this is a project that they feel strongly that they want to support. He stated they are a smaller company in Michigan, and they get requests for material all of the time, and very rarely do they participate since they are trying to grow their company; however, this project was very unique.

Mr. Lamb stated Porous Pave is a pour-in-place material made out of recycled tires and aggregate mixed together. He stated even though they are a relatively small company, they have recycled almost 14 million pounds of rubber in the last sixteen years; and they have put down almost 5 million square feet of materials. He stated the product is ADA compliant. He stated by weight it is 50% rubber and 50% rocks so it is whole-body impact. Mr. Lamb stated it is a very good product for the application they are using here.

Mr. Malinowski asked if it is more or less expensive than asphalt. Mr. Lamb stated initially it is more expensive in most parts of the Country than asphalt. He stated they did a project last year in San Antonio involving a series of running tracks around forty-four different schools; and on some of those tracks there was asphalt that was three years old, and the material was already cracking and breaking apart. He stated typically they go over a rock base, but they can also go over existing asphalt paths which is what they have done on other projects. He stated the maintenance on the product is minimal. He stated it can be vacuumed once a year if it is in an area of heavy tree debris. He stated every few years, they could re-fresh the binder which solidifies everything. He stated the life cycle is very good. He stated they have been in business for sixteen years, and there are many applications that are that age and still doing well. He stated over a lifecycle, their material is probably less expensive.

Mr. Lamb asked Mr. Daulerio about his experience with the product in this area. Mr. Daulerio stated they have installed approximately half a million square feet in the Tri-State area. He stated most of the major arboretums in our area have utilized their material, have been successful, and have had major increases in activity as a result of the material being utilized as a walking surface. He stated the material is environmentally friendly and is more safe as there is better traction for people to be able to walk safely on this product. He stated they have had successes in utilizing their materials at Arlington National Cemetery and a number of hospitals. He stated they have been able to create a material that resists the environment and protect the environment at the same time.

Mr. Lamb stated when they first came out with their material, there was initial concern by arborists, but today their most typical application is tree surrounds. He stated one reason is the ADA aspect as tree grates are very dangerous and can pop out, and their material eliminates that concern. Mr. Lamb stated they are taking something out of the landfill and turning it into something that filters out waste and has some cleaning effect as water is running through their material. He stated in certain parts of the Country there are snow melts, and this material helps slow down the infusion of salts into trees.

Ms. Bunn stated they are doing this almost fourteen months before the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ms. Bunn asked about the color, and asked if they chose a reddish color to replace what was there. Ms. Saracini stated they just received samples of the Porous Pave colors, and she was going to defer to Ms. Liuba Lashchyk, the architect. She stated there is a color

that is very close to the red tippie so that would be an option. Ms. Bunn stated her concern is that the color might fade; and because certain areas are in sun and certain areas under the trees are not, she is concerned that it will not all look as vibrant as what they expect. She stated some colors, especially red, fade first.

Mr. Daulerio stated their material is available in eight standard colors and colors can be mixed. He stated the eight colors are gray, tan, blue, green, brown, Cyprus (a lighter brown), black, and redwood. He stated he assumes it is the redwood that Ms. Saracini is referring to. He stated brown, Cyprus, redwood, and black all hold up extremely well consistently with the binding agent. He stated any pour-in-place material is manufactured with two different types of binder. He stated the binders are available two different ways depending on expense and exposure. He stated they installed the redwood color at Citizens Bank Park in 2012, and the redwood color is still as consistent today as it was in 2012 when it was installed. He stated redwood, brown, Cyprus, and black stay “clean” as it relates to color distortion with their binder. He stated if they were to choose one of the lighter colors – gray, blue, tan, or green he would have concerns long-term as it relates to color.

Mr. Brody asked if this was reviewed by Public Works; and Ms. Tierney stated Mr. Majewski, who is an engineer, did inspect the site, and felt good about the project. Mr. Brody asked about maintenance of the surface, and Ms. Tierney stated it would be done by the Park & Rec staff. She stated maintenance would be similar to what they will have to do for the paths that are going to be installed on Oxford Valley Road.

Ms. Saracini stated maintenance is a concern, and they did not want to put something in without a longevity factor. She stated they always want the Park to look “wonderful.” She stated with the red tippie, the grass very quickly starts to grow over it, and red tippie navigates to other area. She stated it is non-existent in many areas. She stated the amount of work that is needed with the red tippie is constant as many times a year they have had to brush the red tippie back onto the walkway. She stated they feel the maintenance required vacuuming the porous paving will require significantly less time and less money given the man hours. Ms. Saracini stated they do not have the opportunity to put in concrete because there is “too much movement in the area.” She stated concrete would also involve power washing. She stated there is a significant cost savings because of the generosity of Porous Pave, and this will also result in the least amount of man hours as well to maintain the walkway.

Mr. Lamb stated they do not recommend pressure washing their material, and recommend just an occasional vacuuming. He stated every three to four years, they recommend rolling on a fresh coat of the binding agent which restores the surface to a like-new condition.

Mr. Daulerio stated they have done a number of much larger in size projects with Park & Rec Departments that have been utilized with the same traffic associated that will be utilized with this project, and they have been maintained over seven to eight years without a problem with the material. He stated one benefit of their material versus some of their competitors that have similar products is that they take additional care in how they produce their material so that it is always consistent in the permeability and porosity rates. He stated because their rates are higher than most other competitors in this category, the material is less likely to build up debris so there is less maintenance required.

There was no one from the Public wishing to speak on this matter.

Mr. Brody moved, Ms. Bunn seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the project as proposed.

Ms. Tierney stated this will be discussed at the Board of Supervisor's meeting tomorrow evening.

Mr. Stark stated the Park & Recreation Board members are always welcome to stop by Memorial Park to see the work in progress. He stated this is a wonderful, collaborative partnership which is benefitting the community. He stated they are also very grateful for the donation from Porous Pave, adding the community will benefit from this donation for years to come. He stated they are grateful for the partnership with the Township, and he thanked the Board for their approval this evening.

Ms. Saracini thanked the Park & Recreation Board for their approval and for taking the time to meet.

Mr. Lamb thanked the Township as well, and he stated they are happy to be part of a project that is so significant in our American history.

July 14, 2020

Park & Recreation Board – page 9 of 9

There being no further business, Ms. Bunn moved, Ms. Rock seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Brody, Secretary