

**Board of Recreation Commission
Special Reorganization Meeting
January 19, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 via ZOOM video conferencing.

Everyone who attended said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Coiley called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Coiley read the following statement: Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act by posting written notice of the meeting at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10 and posting such notice to the following newspaper: Morris County Daily Record and filing same with Township Clerk.

Present were Commissioners Gabriella Salese, Robert Brueno, Pete Monteverdi, Pete Berkenkamp, Matthew Giorgio, Alternate Commissioner C.J. Engelberger, Alternate Commissioner Tonya Tasso, Chairman Jim Coiley, Committeeman Michael Mihalko, and Supt. Denise Brennan.

RE-ORGANIZATION: Supt. Brennan asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Hanover Township Recreation Commission for the year 2021. **Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to nominate James Coiley for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Salese. All in favor, the motion was passed.** Chairman Coiley asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. **Chairman Coiley nominated Robert Brueno for the position of Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkenkamp. All in favor, the motion was passed.**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Chairman Coiley if anyone would like to change or be removed from their current assignments. There were no requests to change assignments. **Chairman Coiley made a motion to keep all assignments the same as they were in 2020. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT: **Chairman Coiley made a motion to re-appoint Superintendent Denise Brennan. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.**

YEAR END REPORT: Supt. Brennan noted that while 2020 was a “different” year, the Recreation Department was able to put some events together in bits and pieces. Some of those include baseball and soccer in the Spring as well as football in the fall. In addition, \$5,400 was collected in field permits and \$1,800 in light fees. The Bee Meadow Pool was able to open from July 1 until September 20. She stressed there were no incidents and attributed that success to Eddie Cashen, Pool Manager’s COVID plan and assistance from the Board of Health. There was a grand total of 606 family memberships. That number includes 456 residential families and 150 non-resident families. Supt. Brennan noted that unfortunately the budget took a huge hit because no guests were allowed and no camps were camps were scheduled.

Dial A Ride was closed for several months due to COVID and did not reopen until July 1. Currently they are only doing medical appointments, no trips to the supermarket at this time. Dial A Ride registered 270 new clients this year. The service provided 674 rides for 390 people.

A review of events included a drive-in movie, partnered with FMBA, a photo scavenger hunt, a contest to guess the weight of the giant pumpkin, a pumpkin carving contest, and a second drive-in movie for Halloween. A new event was a drive through Winter Wonderland where Santa waved to the children at the end of the drive. This event drew a tremendous response and was sold out with 350 cars participating. Families were grateful and sent letters of thanks for this bit of normalcy during a difficult year. In addition, 400 letters to Santa were personally answered by Santa's staff. A big thank you to the sponsors of this event including the American Legion, Hartz Mountain, Lowes, Morristown Municipal Airport and Wegmans who made this event possible.

Chairman Coiley thanked Supt. Brennan and praised her adaptability. With all the obstacles that were thrown at her this year, she was still able to get these programs running and noted her efforts are appreciated.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Brueno made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:45 p.m., the motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkenkamp. All in Favor, motion carried.

**Board of Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
January 19, 2021**

RE-OPEN: The regular meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 in the Community Center.

Present were Commissioners Gabriella Salese, Robert Brueno, Pete Monteverdi, Pete Berkenkamp, Matthew Giorgio, Alternate Commissioner C.J. Engelberger, Alternate Commissioner Tonya Tasso, Chairman Jim Coiley, Committeeman Mihalko, and Supt. Denise Brennan.

Chairman Coiley called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Coiley read the following statement: Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act by posting written notice of the meeting at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10 and posting such notice to the following newspaper: Morris County Daily Record and filing same with Township Clerk.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Dan Casiero, 56 Manger Road, Cedar Knolls stated he was present to comment on the proposed plan for a new turf field at the Brick Yard that was recently published in the Hanover Eagle. He reminded the Commissioners that the Sammarco property is deed restricted prohibiting an active park, and as such a football field would not be allowed. He noted that while he believes the person in charge of this effort got creative and

put the football field right up to the property line it still encroaches on the Sammarco property. He said he sent the diagram to his attorney and engineer. He is before this committee as not only a Sammarco representative but a resident as well and questions the cost of this project. He stated he feels it will be astronomical. When factoring in the slopes, top soil, retaining walls, new road, rain fall into neighboring properties, water retention, etc. he estimates the project to run between \$5-10 million dollars. He questioned whether the town has received any estimates on this project. There are safety issues to be considered as well. He added there is a field right next door that can be turfed at a cost of perhaps \$800k. There are lights already in the parking lot, bathrooms, everything you need. Chairman Coiley responded that he saw the diagram the same day it was published and added this particular proposal that he is referring to has not yet been discussed.

Committeeman Mihalko responded to Mr. Casiero. He explained that there has been approval for a consultant, and they will get the costs for us. He added they did get some internal numbers, but they seemed low to him. Other properties have been looked at as well. All come with some negative issues. Everyone has agreed that we need a turf field. The existing field is not wide enough, at best it is 40 feet too narrow so turfing that field will not solve the problem. We also need additional fields. The township is limited on what we have and our situation will only get worse. Our population is expected to grow by about 20%. There have been suggestions to turf existing fields at Stoney Brook or Memorial, but that does not get us the additional fields that are needed. The Commission has looked at Allegro but there are constraints there as well.

Casiero summarized by expressing his concerns about the layout, cost, and safety.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

BEE MEADOW POOL FINANCIAL REVIEW: Silvio Esposito, CFO has been in talks with the auditors regarding the Bee Meadow Pool financial situation. The State has certain requirements that have to meet. You cannot exceed last year's revenue when you budget this year's revenue. There may be an option where you can take a three-year average. However, the real issue is membership and expenses. This year the pool brought in \$265k in revenue but there is a lot of surplus in that amount. Membership brought in \$ 174K, misc \$4500. Also, there are couple items that can be adjusted on the expense side. Mr. Esposito offered two recommendations. Last year the pool did not open until July 1 and it only effected three weekends. He suggested that would be a good date again for this year as it would cut down expenses on the labor side. However, there could be no refunds or reductions. If the Township Committee agreed, there are a few things we can do on the labor side. Hopefully we can generate surplus for 2022. A discussion followed regarding Mr. Esposito's recommendations as well as several other options. Supt. Brennan and Mr. Esposito will meet tomorrow for unanswered questions.

ENGINEERING REPORT:

Dave Leo, Assistant Township Engineer provided the following report to Supt. Brennan:

Bee Meadow Pool Dual Slide/Rock Wall: Project complete.

Wegmans “Hit the Trails” Maps: Project complete. Last post installed at the Whippany Burying Yard.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase I: Project complete.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase II: Progress plans received from consultant are being reviewed.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase III: Received grant for \$172,331.50. Proposal for design is under review.

Bee Meadow Nature Trail – Phase IV: Letter of Intent submitted. Application submitted August 31st.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

Girls Lacrosse: We are now aggressively marketing the tri-town girls lacrosse recreation program along with East Hanover and Florham Park. Registrations have started to come in. Most likely all practices will be outdoors. The Board of Education has indicated that all school facilities are only available for school events, no recreation events at this time.

Field Permits: All field permit applications for spring and summer are available. Fields are scheduled to open (COVID and weather permitting) on March 15th.

SUPERINDENT’S REPORT:

Proposed 2021 Calendar: Cautiously optimistic to do events in the spring

Easter Egg Hunt	March 27 (rain date: April 3)
Touch A Truck/Fish Stocking	May 1
Outdoor Movie Night with FMBA	May 15
Fireworks	July 1 (rain date: July 2)
Summer Concerts	July 5, 12, 19, and 26
Hanover Township Day	September 18 (rain date: September 19)
Masquerade at Malapardis	October 30
Winter Wonderland/Here Comes Santa	December 4

Camp is not on the calendar. However, we hope to do a Travelling Teen program with two 2-Week sessions and Summer Plus. Summer Plus would be outdoors at one of the parks.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Committeeman Mihalko attended the re-organization meeting last week and reported that with regard to Committee assignments, everything stayed the same. He added the budget meeting is coming up via zoom on Saturday, February 6. There will be some serious constraints that will present some challenges with the budget.

Committeeman Mihalko reported that the Township Committee is in full support of adding and turfing additional fields. A lengthy discussion followed regarding alternate options (to the previously discussed Brick Yard location) as well as the challenges that come with each of the

potential locations. Committeeman Mihalko will follow up with the Engineering Department for input and report back to the Commissioners.

BUDGET: Supt. Brennan previously sent the Commissioners her recommendation for rates for 2021 activities, programs, fields, and facilities usage. Also sent were recommendations for 2021 Bee Meadow Pool rates. All rates remain the same as last year. She added that once the pool rates are set, she feels they should remain the same whether the pool opens on Memorial Day weekend or on July 1st. It would not be fair to the pool members to discount memberships and then not be able to open next year because there is no revenue. **Chairman Coiley made a motion to approve all recommended fees for 2021 Programs, Activities, Field, Facility, and Bee Meadow Pool rates. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Coiley read the following statement:

Whereas the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 of the Law of 1975, which provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of the meeting at which the public body discussed certain matters from which confidentiality is required as permitted by Section 7b of the Act.

1. The following matter of Personnel is to be discussed by the Recreation Commission on a confidential basis as provided in Section 7b of the Act.
2. The matter will be considered at this time and the public shall not be admitted to this discussion.
3. The result of the discussion set forth above, to be conducted in closed session will be disclosed to the public, if possible, when the meeting is reconvened.

RE-OPEN:

The meeting came out of closed session at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened into open session. Chairman Coiley made a motion to approve the personnel issue discussed in closed session. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

MINUTES AND VOUCHERS: Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to approve the vouchers from the January 14, 2021 meeting Commissioner Brueno seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Brueno made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Monteverdi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNED: Commissioner Brueno made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Giorgio. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Schill