

MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMITTEE

December 18, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The members present were Mike Guadagnino, Steve Saliani, Sandra Coira and Councilman Robert Knapp, liaison. Absent: Lee Haymon and Nancy Larkin. Also present were Richard Kunze, the Borough administrator and Frank Rossi, the Borough Engineer.
2. Salute to the Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mike read the meeting announcement:

This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, duly announced, advertised and posted in the municipal building.

Open to the public:

Nancy Krause: several members of the Oakland Environmental Commission were present at the meeting to discuss issues relating to the Great Oak Park. Nancy Krause, the Chairwoman for the Environmental Commission suggested that the Environmental Commission should have two liaisons in the Park Committee.

Frank Rossi: Boswell Engineering's representative for the Borough was present at the meeting to discuss issues relating to Great Oak Park. Frank Rossi explained that before any work was started on the park that the engineers compiled constraint maps which were submitted to the DEP. Creating these maps was also part of the larger LOI process. After it's completion, the entire application was filed with DEP and sent to the Borough Clerk. Everyone within 200 feet of the park was provided with notice as required. The wetlands were mapped out and buffer zones were set up. Frank Rossi explained that permits are required for most of the work to be completed in the park. No development is allowed within the wetlands or within the buffer zones. However, planting is allowed without obtaining permits as long as it involves only the insertion of vegetation.

Frank Rossi explained that they implemented the worst case scenario for purposes of working on the park, meaning they took the most conservative approach in terms of what land could be disturbed. Certain larger projects such as the parking lot and dog park work are on hold until more information is obtained from DEP.

A Phase one study was also conducted on this property. This study basically searches for any environmental contaminations that might be present on the site. A few issues were discovered and remedied. The Borough Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution which will be submitted memorializing the completion of this work relating to the study.

Concerns were raised about how many people will be using the park and safety issues. Concerns were also raised about not disturbing any species that might be breeding during particular periods of time. Concerns were also raised about water runoff. Frank Rossi recommended that we take a sample to Rutgers of the soil found within the park to perform a soil analysis test. He stated that the most expensive test is about \$ 120 and that the test would provide valuable information about the soil composition.

Dog Park Subcommittee Discussion: Ryan Schwertzfeger informed the Committee that they had their craft fundraiser and raised over \$3,000, which is earmarked for the dog park.

4. Work Session

1. **Band Shell:** Mike reported that there is a lot of enthusiasm about the band shell and he has been contacted by a lot of different groups, including local groups who are very much interested in using it in the future.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held January 29, 2019, in the Danny D'Elia building at 7:00 p.m.