

1. The meeting was called to order at Town Hall. The time was 7:05 PM.
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Dave Spirk, Chair; Tom Butera, Vice Chair, Sheri Herman, John Sweeney, members; Carol Schneider, Township Employee; and Jack Cahalan, Council Liaison. Donna Bristol arrived at 7:15 PM and Scott Schanzenbach arrived at 7:40 PM.

3. **Nomination of Officers:**

**Chair:** Motion by Tom to nominate Dave as Chair, Second by Sheri. Dave asked if there were any other nominations? No one raised their hand. All in favor.

**Vice Chair:** Motion by Dave to nominate Tom as Vice Chair, Second by Sheri. Dave asked if there were any other nominations? No one raised their hand. All in favor.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of November 3, 2008 were tabled.

5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items**

None

➤ **Annual Meeting with Youth Sports Representatives**

Jack said Parks & Rec wanted representatives from the youth sports organizations invited to February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to go over problems, policies, procedures, etc., with Township Park and athletic facilities. Carol Schneider will be in attendance.

Dave said Joe Long came to the January meeting. He's the President of the Saucon Valley Youth Soccer League (SVSL). He had a couple of points at the January meeting that he talked about. One of the things that everybody would like to see is the fact that there's not a sign at the corner of Polk Valley Road and the entrance of the park. A lot of visiting teams just drive right by and don't catch that it's the park. As time goes on, we've talked about this over the last couple of years, the fencing and the balls that leave the field, and they go sliding down those steep slopes. The grass cutting and the maintenance of the fields, there is concern there, and we've had some concern about that as well, and Jack will address that when we talk about a more regimented policy to take care of our fields, including grass cutting length. The scheduling and the parking of the fields go together.

Dave asked if anyone wanted to speak? Joe said they know the fields are being used heavily. They have about 240 kids in the soccer league and they had the games back to back. The first weekend they ran into some serious parking issues, so they started to stagger the times, having a half hour overlap between games. It alleviated some of the problems, but there are still some issues with the parking. They went over one Saturday and all the fields were occupied, and it's not just parents, but it's grandparents, aunts, uncles, multiple family members. It does add up. The people were parking in the maintenance area where the stone area was and on the grass. We tried to tell the away teams not to park on the grass. There is some parking over at the school, but you watch people carrying their lawn chairs, and then they have to walk along the road. Dave said it's not the actual dog park where the parking of the grass occurred, it's the area that is designated as the future building, which is half stoned and half grass. There was parking in the Nor Car lot, which is different from the Polk Valley Park, although it is all now one. The dog park is located in the southern most end of the Nor Car lot. There was some temporary parking at the Nor Car lot for a

couple of games, but the issue there is the topsoil is so deep, and when it gets wet, you can't drive in it whereas the flat area that is above field no. 3, has virtually no topsoil on it and you can park more safer on it. One of the things we've been talking at Parks and Rec about is if we are going to park on the Nor Car lot, we have to do something to it and make some sort of entry driveway. What we talk about here and discuss goes to the Council as advice, comments and recommendations. Council then makes the ultimate decision. We'd like to hear how things can get better, what things aren't so good and how they can get better, and some of your recommendations.

Jamie Fowler said he helps coach the travel teams. From his perspective, the conditions of the field they use for the travel games, he'd like to bring up the maintenance schedule. The combination of it being cut very, very low, it just gets a beating. They'd like to offer volunteers to help with the maintenance. They use the fields and they want to find a way to help with the fields, either by helping to finance them or offering volunteers. Dave said he doesn't think it's a money issue. We talked about having an Agronomist coming in, even before the park opened, but the Township has never done it before. Jack will discuss this a little later. The Council is now considering it as we've been asking for it for some time. Jamie said the fields are being used year in and year out, and after awhile, the only solution will be to shut them down. There are some things you can do to extend the usage of the fields. Dave said we had Mr. Otis, who is an Agronomist, and he said shutting them down doesn't really do a tremendous amount, it's what you do to them, how high or how short to cut the grass, what you feed, how you aerate them. We had some issues when the park was put in with the sub contractor who did the grass work and the grass was never that great to begin with. In fact, we had a meeting on that grass two years ago. We didn't start with the perfect scenario. We are going to definitely take some steps to make sure the grass is better. On the top of our list is how to handle traffic coming in and out and how to stagger games. We have to get professional advice on what to do with our grass. It's a beautiful venue and one of the nicest places you could visit. Some state organizations have given awards to Polk Valley Park. We'd like to have an Agronomist give us advice on what to do on every field, whether we have it in the budgets to do it or not, whether Roger and his crews can do them or not, those are the things we are not sure of yet. It could be that we would ask the sports teams to do something here and there. He doesn't think it's going to take much; it just takes the right thing. The problem is you have to go up there, circle around, and maybe a better thing to think about is volunteers who try to help maintain the traffic. Right now, on a typical Saturday with soccer, there are four teams from Division 1 with ten per team, which would be using all three large fields and two outfields. Sheri said soccer and lacrosse – they are different times of the year. Dave said they are having similar issues, just different times of the year.

Pete Kowalski from Lacrosse suggested they could offer volunteer help and asked about a shuttle system for parking. Lou Moyer said they could use parent/volunteers to help with the parking.

Glenn Kern said what about younger kids playing elsewhere and taking some of the pressure off? Someone said the purpose of using the fields at Polk Valley Park, is if you had children in two different divisions, you could be there at the field and see them both as opposed to driving to another park.

Lou said we can alleviate the traffic problem if we stagger the times of the games. Jamie said some of the problem was some of the travel parents wanted to sit in their cars above the field and watch the games from their car. One of the things is sheer volume which we can handle by scheduling. Another thing there is a benefit to the parents, and administratively, to run the programs at one park and have everything at Polk Valley Park. Dave said there are games going on down at the Grist Mill, going on everywhere. The bottom line is it's a beautiful park that we've all paid for and let's play there and figure out how to play there. The staggered schedule did work. What became an issue, for whatever reason, we have a plateau where the building is going to go,

and everyone who goes to the games, we are allowed to park on half of it, but not all of it. He doesn't see the logic there. The advice was to park on the Nor Car lot instead of the grass on the plateau and his argument against that is why park on the grass on Nor Car but not on the grass on the plateau. It doesn't make any sense. The plateau is actually closer, it's flatter, it's safer to park, it's harder and doesn't have any real top soil up there where the Nor Car your tires go into the ground. On a perfectly sunny day, it doesn't matter. It really doesn't make any sense for the police to put their thumb on the parents and grandparents and only take up half of the plateau.

Sheri said we are saying the activity was better by staggering the games, but it also included people parking on the grass, so yes, the traffic wasn't as high when we staggered games, however, people were still parking on that plateau, the entire plateau. We were not ticketed the later half of the year even though they were parking on the grass. There were quite a few times, she made sure she parked on the stones, while watching the games, and an officer was parked in the grass and kept an eye on the cars that were in the grass. No one was ticketed either of the times that occurred, but it makes you a little uneasy seeing an officer sitting there. The traffic was better staggering, but it was still with people using the entire plateau.

Jack said the Nor Car property, the reason it was offered, he was informed early in the fall that there wasn't enough parking and that's what that was supposed to be. They put up barriers and cones, and he doesn't know if anyone parked there, but after the weekend, all the barriers and cones were trashed as they were driven over. What he was hearing from the Police Department was an enforcement issue and it did die down. When he heard there was an issue of people parking on the grass, he also understood someone drove around the whole park and there were parking spaces available up at the top and down at the bottom parking lot, so it wasn't an issue of the lack of parking spaces, it was an issue of where do people want to park, and they want to park closest to the field where their children are playing. We put signs up that said "No Parking on the Grass". We talked to the Police Department and they were uncomfortable with ticketing people. It was a new issue for everyone. The parking on the road stopped. It wasn't because there wasn't enough parking in the park. Someone said it's unrealistic to have someone park in the Reservoir Parking lot and walk up to the park. Dave said we have to figure out exactly how to do it and how to do it well. Everybody here wants to see more and more children participating in the youth sports. She heard Sandra Yerger on Council talk about the computers and the kids and they aren't getting outside enough. We have to figure out how to get there and how to maximize what everyone here has paid for.

Mike Herman said have all the signs for the parking areas been placed at the park? Jack said yes, all the signage is up.

Kim Brown said he's from the Saucon Valley and Hellertown Lower Saucon Little League. They are looking at using the baseball fields basically, for the small kids, nine years and under. Jack said they'll be ready. Kim said he doesn't think you are going to have the traffic problem at practice. The parents drop the kids off.

Dave said everybody should get their wish list out – we want to have games on these days and at this time and let Carol Schneider worry about working it out.

Dave said there are some groups that are not necessarily citizens of Hellertown-Lower Saucon and use the park from time to time. Is that true? Jack said yes. Dave said sometimes they are scheduled at the same time we want to have some of our youth scheduled, has that happened? Carol said the only time there was a conflict was with soccer when there was another soccer league using it, and there were residents on the other soccer team, but it wasn't a youth soccer program. That was the only time. Jack said the only time a group like that would have the field if none of you have it scheduled. We have a tiered type of priority list and you guys are number one.

Lou said they had problems with the adult soccer league where they had travel games scheduled and some one had a playoff game. Dave said he believes the township and the township organizations, which includes Hellertown, has priority. Jack said they are number one. Dave said if that happens, you have to contact someone from the township. Jack said get your wish list in early. Dave said he believes every league, in 2009, should send in their dates and times right now. If you don't use it, tell us as quickly as you can. Where there's overlap and we can't have so many at once, we'll have to work it out then. That's why this meeting is now in February, so we can hammer all these things out and everybody is happy. Ultimately, we're just serving the children as best as possible.

Glenn said regarding the schedule, a lot of care was taken to make sure there was not an issue with the Saucon Valley Soccer League. At the last minute, there was an issue that came up with the Saucon Valley Soccer League, where the schedule was already set, already determined, then the last minute, something happened to the Saucon Valley Soccer League that necessitated them from using the field. Fortunately, people involved were bending over to please them, and it's not going to happen again. It needs to be clear that once the contract is signed and the schedule is cleared, there needs to be an understanding that there's no going back. Dave said that's why he's trying to push to get our schedules in now. Jamie said the league publishes the schedules on the soccer side, so you are at their mercy. It's just out a few weeks before our first game. Dave said when the league schedules it, you guys have to schedule the home games. Sheri said they recently made it more difficult for you. You used to be able to, in advance, give them what wouldn't work; now you can't do that anymore.

Tom Maxfield said where is the soccer league from? Jamie said Lehigh Valley Soccer League. Tom said do they take into consideration the township's schedule or usage of the field? Lou said no. Tom said you have to relate that to them. Jamie said if the township closes the field on us or insists we can't use the field, we can go back to the Lehigh Valley Soccer League and they will allow us to move the game. Lou said for the spring, there are ten teams in the Saucon-Hellertown league. Dave said in defense of the league, you have so many municipalities and school districts. We want more and more kids involved and we want to use the fields and get along and be happy. We want the fields to last. It's the fall soccer when you are busy. Lacrosse is in the spring. There's more in the fall. Jamie said there are 270 little kids for soccer in the fall plus the traveling teams. Dave asked how old are the people in the adult league? Jamie said about 40 years old. Some reside in the township. Five times they play in the fall, five times in the spring. Carol said when they applied, they applied when Youth soccer wasn't even using the fields, so she doesn't know why there was a conflict. Carol said we have a good system, and she hasn't heard any complaints.

Carol said the adult softball league is here, and they use the Town Hall Park under the lights field and there are really no issues. They come on Wednesday's. Someone from the softball league said the maintenance is awesome. One little quirk is the lights shine straight on the ground, so maybe position them to inside of the field also. There was an issue regarding cleaning out under the bases. Jack said they will pay closer attention to that. Someone said it's a pleasure coming here to play ball, and the Township is great to them.

Tom Maxfield said on the fencing, the original plan was the landscaping was supposed to stop the ball. Dave said if you have kids that are going to be competitive, they can kick the ball really hard. Down at the Grist Mill, the balls go into the creek. These are good things because we are using the parks. Things are happening, we just have to keep working together. The park is at tremendous place. We have a gem.

Sheri said as a mom, assistant coach, whatever title at the time, in the fall, she parked at the Nor Car parking. If you are transporting five and six year olds, walking up Polk Valley is not fun. If it's there versus that flat plateau, as a mom with a couple extra five and six years olds, she'll take the plateau and take the ticket any day versus walking Polk Valley. You only have two arms. Dave said one day, we're going to have a walkway, a sidewalk, and a bridge and if we have to have a little shuttle, whatever it takes, we're going to have these things worked out. Maybe we'll have a cross walk and flashing lights there one day. All these things take time and input from everyone involved.

Tom Maxfield said he thinks the speed limit should be changed. Dave said absolutely and he sees stop signs at the curve...just like at the curve near the school. When we put a walk there and the kids happen to get off the walk, as kids tend to do sometime, those are things we have to consider and we will consider.

Bill said the levels from the parking lot down to the field, they need more steps on each of those slopes. Dave said from an engineering perspective, steps may be tough and may raise our liability higher. He thinks paths are going to be made for the next decade. Jack said the steps were rejected. Dave said we just have to keep pressing forward on these things.

Jack said there is a hand out with a map on the first page, it's proposed fencing additions. That is soccer field no. 3. We did hear about the balls traveling down to the parking lot. It's about 330 linear feet of the proposed fence and it does have overlap and offset you were talking about. If you have to go down the hill to get a ball, you can go through there and run down. This is something we are bringing to Council as a recommendation from Park and Rec and we brought it here tonight for the first time. We are looking for comments or input. We hope that will address the issue that we've been hearing about with the balls. The height of the fence is 3' and it's split rail. Sheri said it's usually not the height that is the issue it's the balls rolling. Jack said that will stop the balls. Dave said what is the size of the mowers, maybe 3' is too small. Jack said they will work that out. Someone said the fencing that is already there, there needs to be a projected opening behind the goals, so they don't have to run around. Jack said they will talk and see what they can do and he will look into it.

Jack said on the next page, in the dug outs on the baseball fields, they are recommending sun shades to be put up over that, so the kids won't be hit with the direct sunlight. It's taken on and off every season.

➤ **Draft Maintenance Policy for Township Parks and Athletic Facilities**

Jack said the next thing is the grass cutting. He wants to run through a Maintenance Policy for Township Parks dated January 2009. They tried to put this together to try and put down all of the maintenance procedures they could think of that they are doing now and the ones that they think they are going to need in the future. Obviously the goal is to keep the fields in all of the parks in tip top shape and to bring in the expert advice that they need to change this policy to make adjustments as we go along. Page 2, there is a recommendation in there which came from the Park and Rec about the Agronomist. We are making a recommendation to the Council to look into seriously consider hiring an Agronomist or a Turf Management Specialist who has some background in dealing with turf monitoring and other types of aspects. He's heard various companies do offer these services. What they do is see what's available out there and put together a list of suggested duties. He could not find where this is being done anywhere else that he knows of in PA or in NJ. There's an Agronomist service for golf courses, they spend a lot of money on those types of services, but for Township parks, he doesn't think there's a calling out there for it. Dave said we went out to the park and there's a guy that comes to him and tells him what to do with his yard – he's an Agronomist. Dave asked him if he would consider doing this at a park if he

was paid to come out and just look at it. He's the guy that said there was some type of bug there eating away at the grass and we had to go and tell the sub contractor to go and take care of it. Dave's idea was just tell us what to do and if we could handle it virtually with not much of an extra effort, with the Public Works, then we do it. If it's something we do that they recommend beyond that, then we bid it out or hire someone out, then we just have to address that as it comes. Jack said we're really looking for someone to visit the fields on a periodic basis, probably during the playing season, do some soil analysis, do some testing, look at the field and turf, and advise us if we have to make some adjustments in the weed and feed, do we have to make some adjustments in the cutting level, do we have to do more aeration, do we have to do more seeding...all these types of things that we can do in-house except for the weed and feed. We just need the advice on how to do it and how to best do it. That's what we are really looking for. They can also observe how the fields are being used with the play and make recommendations to us as far as the use of the fields. Dave said he asked the guy does \$200 a quarter sound like it would work? The guy said sure. Sheri said we have the benefit of both Lacrosse and the Soccer league saying we'll help wherever we can. Hopefully, we're not looking at large expenses. Everybody wants to work together in the best interest. Jack said this consultant would feed into this policy. In the policy, there's a whole bunch of things we threw in here. We have all the fields in here and it treats the field with how much is used, the type of fertilizer of it to be applied, at what combinations and what period of time. We have the aeration which we can do. We just need some advice when that should be done and how it should be done properly. One of the things we want to get into is an integrated pest management program. We want to look at the whole park as a whole and use the best practices. This is something the schools are using...less chemical and more of the non chemical type of application. There's a lot that is in there about that. We have mulching, management of some of the other evasive and non-evasive species. We have mowing – that was an issue and we bid out the mowing services. We had a good first year with the company. We didn't have a good second year, so we're bidding it out again this year. We can't let them on their own when they mow the parks and then wait to hear complaints from people saying they cut the grass too low. We have to stay with who gets the bid and make sure they are cutting it properly, the height is being done correctly, they are getting the areas along the fence done, they are weed whacking. We really want to stay on top as we are paying a lot of money for the contract. Dave said is that bid out? Jack said no, we are going to put it out soon. Dave said are we talking about going with the school and the Borough? Jack said the school is on a different cycle and have renewed a contract with someone else. Hellertown prefers to hire the kids in the summer to do the mowing. They have enough equipment. There's weed control, over seeding, etc. in the policy. We hope the policy is a compilation of all the practices that we want to put in place in the Township. We have Public Works and they basically do grass mowing and that's being bid out so we really need to be instructed on how to best maintain our properties and this policy will help do that.

➤ **Suggested Duties for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist**

The Suggested Duties for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist feeds into the above.

➤ **Draft Policy for Use of Township Parks and Athletic Facilities**

Jack said we are bringing this to Parks and Rec and the EAC to have them look at it and make recommendations to Council. That's a policy where we're trying to put together all of the things that Carol is doing, the scheduling, all of the groups that approach us to use the athletic fields and all of the people who come and approach us to come and rent the pavilions. We wanted to put that all together and have a policy that lists all of the rules and procedures for that. Jack said on page 2 of the policy, he spoke about the priorities that they will follow in scheduling. He said they were number one, but actually the Township is number one. You are number two as recreational providers. When he says the township, he means the Park and Recreation Board, the EAC, or whatever. Local recreation providers would be the first priority for scheduling for events. Then it

goes down to category 3 which are the local civic and educational groups. Then there would be the Saucon Valley School District, Lehigh University, DeSales University and then Category 4 would be other contracted organizations. The Township has not established a policy, but wants to limit that to non profit groups. We've been approached by several groups of people who want to do camps where they want to charge, and we don't feel that's a priority. The priority is for youth sports and other civic organizations. This is what we will be following. There's a description on the process you go through to reserve a facility. The fees and the charges are attached and the facilities use rules are basically the rules that Carol has on her forms that she hands out. The park rules have been in place for many, many years and have been adopted in the Township Code and there's nothing new there. There are pavilion rental rules. We've just put down some general rules we've collected from the various sports areas like the baseball fields. There have been rules like locking the bases up, policing the grounds, cleaning up the debris. On the multi purpose fields, it's all there in draft form, for example, field use will be restricted when soil is very dry and turf is very wilted. That again, is subject from advice from someone like an Agronomist. The other one would be recommendation to rotate the heavy play areas during practices. We talked about goal orientation and field orientations being changed periodically. We talked about, if possible, moving the soccer or lacrosse field sidelines. One of the issues that did come up about playing on the fields when the grass is dormant, which is March and April, he's not saying there is going to be a rule, but we need to know more about that and talk to the expert to see where that factors into the use. The other one is if it's recommended to us that the field be rested, we'd have to take under advice and see what's best for the field. He doesn't have any information about that. He's not an expert and we have been working together on what's the best use of the field. Closing the fields in inclement weather, we put this together last year. We have an email group that Carol, Roger and his staff have and Public Works goes out and looks at the fields, and if it looks like there is going to be a rain event that could be a problem, and that information is given out to the sports groups. The only issue on that is we're not here on Saturday or Sunday and we've asked the sports group to use their best judgment if something like that happens. All of these issues, have been touched on by just about everyone here tonight, parking, the staggering of the fields, the arrival of the teams, the carpooling, shuttles to and from the school campus, etc. He doesn't know if any of the sports groups have a website. He would ask that you try to put that out on your website about the parking, where to go, etc. Dave said maybe we could put a pdf file on the website with a map of the parking. Jack has a pdf file of the park. One of the complaints heard was they came to the park and didn't know what was required. Dave said what about a sign at the entrance of the park? Jack said Council asked for recommendations on that. Jack said the last thing about the overflow parking, the good news is we did get a signed agreement from the homeowner about the barn addition and we have a settlement on that March 20, and as soon as that's concluded, we'll be able to go in there, remove the addition, get the trail in place, put the bridge over Polk Valley Run and the connector trail will be done by at least next September, hopefully a lot sooner. The bridge is a bid process and the trail can be done in-house. Jack said he hit most of the issues that were brought up tonight. These are draft policies to bring to Council and he welcomes any comments. Hopefully, they will be adopted and it will give Carol and Roger some guidance as how to run these different facilities. It will be up on the township website. Last year we got Carol a software program where she went from a manual system to this system. We'll put schedules out and we'd like to put something out at the park on a bulletin board under glass or other activities that might be going on at the park. Let us know if there's anything that will make it easier for your teams and players, and parents to get in and out. We're willing to work with you. We want to utilize the fields, make everybody's visit pleasurable, so let us know if there's anything.

Lou said on the weekends, you get a forecast where it says rain on Saturday, he goes out later that day when the rain has stopped and there's a bunch of people up there in the soccer field tearing it up. Is there any way we can put signs up? Jack said the one thing we will do if that's a problem is he'll get signage saying the field is closed and anybody on it is basically trespassing and we will put that information out to the police. That's a good idea and we'll follow up on it. Dave said it looks like a good start. Most of it seems common sense things.

6. **Projects:**

➤ **Town Hall Park**

Jack said he covered this.

➤ **Southeastern Park**

Jack said no update.

➤ **Steel City Park**

Jack said Boucher & James will be bringing conceptual designs for park improvements to a Council meeting this spring. If you want to get an agenda of Council meetings, let us know.

➤ **Heller Homestead**

Jack said the Township Solicitor will be meeting with the Society Hill Homeowners Association to ask whether they would be interested in a swap that would straighten out property line and provide the Township with more property within the park (where we could site amenities such as the gazebo). Cinder block garage building to be taken down sometime this year after items stored there are disposed of. The eleven acres is not accessible. The area that is accessible is the lot line when the property was donated by Society Hill. The property we'd like to use doesn't belong to us, it belongs to Society Hill. This was Tom Maxfield's suggestion to see if we could work out a lot line change and see if we could get a little piece of property from them and we'll give them a piece of property, mostly lawn, that we are mowing anyway. One of the reasons we wanted to do this was we brought the Council a recommendation to put a gazebo structure that we could use for the children or picnickers in inclement weather. When we went out with the planner to look at the best location we found out it wasn't our property. Hopefully, this will help us out in that area.

➤ **Polk Valley Park**

Jack said the following are updates:

1. We are anticipating an opening of Dog Park tentatively on/about April 4, 2009. Dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony to be set up for that day. Web page for the Dog Park to be created. Rules for the Dog Park will be displayed on sign. Jack handed out information on this.
2. Planner has submitted examples of pavilions and play area equipment for Parks & Rec. input and recommendations.

➤ **Kingston Park**

Jack said final design plan for Kingston Park should be coming before the Council at their February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kingston Park is a park area adjacent to the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse out at the end of Countryside Lane and Applebutter Road. That area is in the process of being designed which should be coming to the Council in the middle of February. It will be a series of trails, parking area for busses so they can bring the school children up there. They are using the

Lutz Franklin Schoolhouse to bring classes up there and have the kid's experience what a schoolhouse and a school day would have been back in the previous century.

➤ **Grants**

Jack said we will be putting together a grant application early in 2009 for the Rail-to-Trail project.

➤ **Volunteer/Scout Projects**

Jack said no update.

7. **Old Business:**

➤ **Polk Valley Park Phase I Improvements – Update**

Jack said we talked about this earlier.

➤ **PVP – SVSD Connector Trail - Update**

Jack said we talked about this earlier.

➤ **SEPTA Rails to Trails Project - Update**

Jack said the Solicitor is finalizing the lease agreement with SEPTA Legal Department. Issue that had to be resolved was what did maintenance of rail right of way entail? Municipalities only want to maintain surface for bike/pedestrian use – SEPTA wanted complete infrastructure maintained – lease should be finalized and before the four (4) municipalities by the end of February. This will be our next park. We've been working with SEPTA Authority for several months. The track is being cleared as we speak. They are asking the rails and ties up all the way to the Grist Mill. The track is being cleared and if we are successful in getting the lease agreement, then the Township and the Borough and the other municipality will have a 30 year lease for \$1.00 a year for the track surface to use for pedestrians, biking, and so on. One of the things is trying to get some input from the community representatives and have each of the municipalities form a Trail Advisory Group or appoint joint members to a Trail Advisory Committee which would be made up of two members each from the municipality, a member who is a property owner, and we want to start moving this ahead. We need to get a grant application into the state to pay for any of the amenities that are going to go on this. Right now we are talking about a gravel surface, and that may change. There's some fencing that go over some of the bridges, some safety equipment, some ballards and things like that. We are looking for a trailhead so people can drive up to a certain area, take the bike off the back and have access north and south of the trail. Possibly by the end of the year, we have a linear park that goes the eight miles to the four municipalities.

Dave said he thinks the gravel is the most sensible thing right now. When Jack told us about the pervious concrete, maybe we can think about that in the future. Dave said we talked about modified stone and it gets rolled and almost gets like asphalt. It's ¾" stone with screening around it and it really packs like asphalt. That's our recommendation to Council.

Donna said it's two tracks wide. She's done a lot of rails to trails all over this area and they just put screens down and roller it. It's less maintenance because if you need more, you bring it in and roller it again. Dave said let's figure out something simple right now. People would be pretty happy with that. Donna said in the lower section down by Coopersburg, they've been putting the ballast to the side. Jack said that's still the contractor for SEPTA.

➤ **Christ Lutheran Church Property**

Jack said the Township made an offer to the church to purchase the two baseball fields. Offer has to be approved by the entire church body.

Jack said what do you guys do on the Christ Lutheran Church fields? Someone said they use that for their bigger kids – 13 to 15 year olds. There are a couple of other organizations trying to get on that field. The top field is beautiful, but you can't get up there as you can't use that road. Their plan was to put a road in the backside where the pavilion is. Jack said the Township is talking to the church of possibly acquiring those fields. The idea would be put a road coming in off Mockingbird Hill. Someone said it's tough for a mother with little kids or for grandparents. Dave said we'll put a road in, and would have to do things to make it appropriate. Jack said we don't want anyone parking over at the church and walking across Easton Road. Dave said it would appear that both sides are in agreement that we somehow get control of the fields and they give up control of the fields...a long term lease or a sale. Someone said the Little League put a lot of money into that field and they basically built that field. Dave said if we take that under the control, then the Township is going to take care of it. Our goal is to get more and more uses for expanding and using all the outside facilities. If we have an issue with not enough parking spaces, we'll have to address it at that time. Someone said they didn't really have too many issues out there. Dave said if we acquire it, we're going to have a lot of things we are going to have to think about how to make it more useful and have it safe. Jack said one quick update on baseball, we relooked at some conceptual plans and are trying to get the Steel City Park improved. There's a baseball field that is very poor, and we'd like to get that to a point where it could be used. Someone said if you fix it up, it will be a nice field. Right now, you can't use it for much of anything.

➤ **Heller Homestead/Society Hill Lot Line Change - Update**

Jack said this was talked about earlier.

8. **New Business:**

➤ **Park Purpose Statements**

Jack said Draft "Park Purpose Statements" for the Township parks is being reviewed by Parks & Rec before going to Council.

➤ **Draft Maintenance Policy for Township Parks**

Jack said this was talked about earlier.

➤ **Draft policy for Use of Township Parks & Athletic Facilities**

Jack said this was talked about earlier.

➤ **Suggested Duties for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist**

Jack said this was talked about earlier.

➤ **Review Site Plans (Wydnor Hall Site Plan)**

Jack said there is no rec fee.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion for adjournment. All in favor. The time was 9:00 P.M.