

**NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
March 16, 2023**

<b>Members present</b>	Marty Wade, Chairman Jim Hembree, Vice Chairman Mary Anderson, Secretary John Bishop Steve Bryer
<b>Others present:</b>	Jennifer Fean, Director of Parks & Recreation Deborah Catoggio, Operations Manager Kim Rose, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Marty Wade.

Roll call was taken. Jim Hembree arrived shortly after.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve Bryer to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mary Anderson. The minutes were approved.

**Citizen's Concerns**

Dinesh Puppala, President of the Cricket Club raised a concern that there were no dedicated fields for Cricket in this area. He reported that the club has 60 teams and they must travel to Atlantic City and Edison, NJ in order to play. The ages of the participants range from 6 – 19 years old. He explained the necessary components that creating a dedicated Cricket field must contain.

In response, Marty Wade reported that in his experience, the combined use of fields is challenging. Mr. Wade further expressed that he is retired and was willing to tour Parks and Recreation locations that are not currently being used as potential sites. He expressed that with Northampton Township Parks and Recreation, the resident children come first, then Council Rock students and adult usage of fields come last. He asked that Danish please obtain his phone number at the conclusion of the meeting to arrange a date they could meet and tour the potential locations.

**Preliminary Plans for 39-Acre Park were presented by YSM Landscape Architects was presented. Please see attached official minutes from YSM.**

**Unfinished Business**

**Approval of Baseball Storage Shed**

Jim Gallagher, president of Council Rock Northampton Baseball explained that the organization has accumulated a lot of equipment to maintain the fields at the Civic Center Complex and they lack the storage to properly store the equipment. Mr. Gallagher is requesting approval for a storage container to be placed at rear of the complex to create the necessary space for the equipment. He would paint the structure blue.

Northampton Girls Softball – Bobbi Jo Flannick, NGSA Treasurer reported that they have 225 registrants, up from 199 last year. They will be using Churchville fields this season. Opening Day will be April 22. They just received completed tax returns for 2020 through 2022 from their accountant. They have all been filed and forwarded to Parks & Recreation Operations Manager today.

Northampton Indians Football – represented by Steve Szydluk reported that they will have their draft this weekend. Nothing further to report.

### **Report of Parks and Recreation Director**

Jennifer reported that all camps are filled and camps will have the highest numbers since COVID. She also reported that overall registrations are up 28% from this time last year and she was excited to see everyone returning to Parks and Recreation Programs.

Spring is coming and Parks and Recreation has a lot to look forward to! Jennifer announced that the Bunny Hunt will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Municipal Park. If there is inclement weather, the event will take place inside Welch Elementary School. Kids will enjoy a magic show and collecting eggs and other tasty treats from local sponsors. Pictures and a special visit with the bunny are also included. Pre-registration is required.

Residents can also look forward to Spring on a trip this April. Come see the Spring Flowers Bloom on the Longwood Gardens trip on Wednesday, April 19. The bus will depart at 9 AM, lunch is included! For more information, visit the parks and recreation website at [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com)

Jennifer concluded her report by announcing the Parks and Recreation Department is still looking for lifeguards and camp counselors this summer and anyone interested should visit the Parks and Recreation website for details and apply today.

### **Report of Supervisor Liaison –**

Dr. Rose reported that she will be working at the Bunny Hunt on security detail.

### **Citizens Concerns**

Mike McGuire, President of the Johnsville Museum expressed concerns about a location for the Johnsville Museum. In 2008, Johnsville expressed a desire to preserve NADC. The museum was approved by the Board of Supervisors provided they raise \$100,000 which they did. Mr. McGuire presented a petition to have a space in any building erected at the 39 Acre site. They have \$100,000 to contribute. Mr. Wade accepted the petition.

### **Announcements –**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anderson

Secretary

Parks and Recreation Board

**Meeting Minutes: 39-Acre Park**  
Master Plan  
Public Meeting #1

**Date:** March 16, 2023  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Northampton Township Office  
**By:** Chuck Strodoski  
**Project No.:** 22NOR-01

**Persons Attending:** Jennifer Fean, Director, Northampton Township Parks & Recreation  
Marty Wade, Chairman, Northampton Parks and Recreation Board  
Jim Hembree, Vice Chairman, Northampton Parks and Recreation Board  
Mary Anderson, Secretary, Northampton Parks and Recreation Board  
John Bishop, Northampton Parks and Recreation Board  
Steve Bryer, Northampton Township Parks and Recreation Board  
Kimberly Rose, Parks and Recreation Liaison, Northampton Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Lightkep, Spring Mill Country Club  
Bradley Rozzelle, Spring Mill Country Club  
Kevin F., Resident  
E.J. Sims, Resident  
Dinesh Puppala, Cricket Club  
Prasad Pulohit, Cricket Club  
George L. Resident  
Keeri L., Resident  
Mike O'Neill, Resident  
Jill Deluci, CRUSA  
Kate Maguire, JCSM  
Mike Maguire, JCSM  
Mark Calhoun, Resident  
Vivian Braybrite, Resident  
Liz Youse, Resident  
Michale James, Resident  
Kate, Resident  
Approximately 20 +/- additional attendees  
Ann Yost, YSM  
Chuck Strodoski, YSM

**Purpose of Meeting:** To present the Draft Master Plan to the public and receive input.



### Of Record:

1. C. Strodoski reviewed the meeting agenda and provided an overview of the master plan process completed to date.
2. C. Strodoski narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the site and provided a summary of the needs assessment completed to date. Outreach included working with a study committee. Needs assessment considered three sites: 1) 39- Acre Park 2) Northampton Municipal Park and 3) the Northampton Recreation Center.
3. C. Strodoski presented long term Township goals for the Recreation Center to include:
  - An expanded Recreation Center building.
  - A new swimming pool complex.
  - New adult baseball field to replace the existing field at the Recreation Center.
  - New youth baseball/softball field to replace existing field at the Recreation Center.
  - New adult softball field to replace existing field at the Recreation Center.
  - The improvements above will result in the loss of one football field, and two dedicated multi-purpose fields. These impacts have influenced the facility program for the 39-Acre Park Property.
4. C. Strodoski provided a brief overview of the project site followed by a presentation of the Draft Master Plan. The master plan proposes four multi-purpose fields, ten pickleball courts, two tennis courts, A fitness court, fitness equipment, a restroom/concession/storage building, a second restroom/pavilion building, tot lot and youth playground, natural areas, trails and parking areas. Discussions of the Draft Master Plan are summarized below.
  - A resident requested no lights or sound systems.
  - A resident expressed the belief that the 39- Acre Park property was to be preserved as agricultural fields through a deed restriction. The Township indicated the land was secured from the Federal Government in the late 90's under the agreement it be developed for active recreation. If not developed for active recreation, the agreement stipulates the property may be returned to the Government. The Township has allowed agriculture on the site to maintain the property until it is developed for recreation.
  - A resident expressed concern that the proposed maintenance building will become an eyesore.
  - A resident expressed concern regarding noise from the park, noting noise from the existing municipal park.
  - Representatives from the adjacent Spring Mill Country Club Golf Course expressed noise concerns for the golfers and requested a buffer to include fencing that will prevent park users from entering the golf course. Additionally, runoff from 39-Acre Park to the golf course is a concern that must be addressed.
  - Consider development of an indoor community center at 39-Acre Park.
  - Safety of the pedestrian crossing was raised as a concern. The proposed crossing was reviewed by a traffic engineer. Further engineering study will be completed prior to construction.
  - Pickleball courts are needed. Would like to see indoor courts.

- Residents expressed the need to review the demographics. Do we need more athletic fields? Based on Township input and the reconfiguration of the Recreation Center Complex, additional athletic fields are needed.
  - A resident expressed opinion that a more passive park will be a less expensive option.
  - A suggestion was made to keep the land as is, and slow down the development process.
5. M. Wade concluded the meeting. C. Strodoski outlined the next steps in the process. The input from the meeting and a probable construction cost estimate will be presented to the study committee for review.

Please provide changes or corrections to these meeting minutes to [chucks@ysmla.com](mailto:chucks@ysmla.com) at YSM within one week of receipt.