

# Lehigh Township Recreation Commission

April 21, 2025

7:00 PM

## **Call to Order**

Sandy Hopkins called to order the regular meeting of the Lehigh Township Recreation Commission.

## **Roll Call.**

David Hess, Jerry Pritchard, Patrick VanderPloeg, and Sandy Hopkins were present for the meeting.

## **Public Comment**

“Noon Year’s Eve Event” (Karlee Farley). Ms. Farley had an idea for an event for the Township. She was suggesting on New Years Eve, during the day, have an event for kids and families with a main event of a balloon drop at noon, along with vendors, games and other items for the kids to do. She and her family attended an event like this in Macungie and thought it would be a nice idea to bring it to the Township. They were thinking it would work at Berlinsville Park. It was free to the public. They would be willing to plan and organize the event. They would like to include the fire company, police, school and churches, maybe 10 x 10 tents around the track. They would consider a food truck or two, letting them know it is a free event that we wouldn’t be guaranteeing a specific amount of funding. Vendors could possibly give out candy and noisemakers. They were thinking it would run from about 10 AM to Noon. It would be an overall fun event for the kids. Local businesses can promote their business by handing out items. Everyone would just show up and enjoy the time at a family friendly event similar to tree lighting.

With Rec Board’s support and approval, they would be willing to spearhead the event and contact the local businesses and schools. They would also be willing to contact businesses for financial support of the event.

A resident questioned if the food trucks would be providing certificates of insurance. Alice Rehrig commented the food trucks would be responsible for providing a certificate of insurance naming the Township as an additional insured.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to authorize Karlee Farley to go forward with the event and that we get the proper documents from any food trucks prior to starting event and

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the Rec Board be updated on the event. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Sandy Hopkins will mention it during public comment at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Supervisors meeting, but it won't be able to be voted upon until May 13.

**Additional Public Comment.** There was no additional public comment.

### **Approval of March 17, 2025, Minutes.**

Sandy Hopkins noted a correction to the minutes. Patrick VanderPloeg was in attendance towards the end of the meeting. David Hess made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Patrick VanderPloeg seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Ag Days. This will be placed on hold for 2025. Patrick VanderPloeg will come back next month with a possible date for 2026.

Recreation Consultant. There was no discussion at this time.

Danielsville Tennis Courts. Sandy Hopkins and Jerry Pritchard met with Mike Muffley at the Danielsville Tennis Courts. The tennis courts and fencing will need to be redone. The recommendation was to mill the existing courts and add drainage underneath the courts. The engineer provided a preliminary budget for redoing the tennis courts which could range from \$106,552.80 up to \$147,990.00. The final cost wouldn't be known until the project was put to bid. Jerry Pritchard felt this should be provided to the Supervisors and let them decide what direction to go with the tennis courts and start meeting with contractors.

Patrick VanderPloeg questioned if there was any grant funding available for this project. The cost to replace the courts is a large chunk of money. Sandy Hopkins commented that is why she wanted to discuss the consultant. There was \$50,000 set aside for a consultant, but that doesn't mean it all needs to be spent. We could at least see what we could get. Everyone should have been given the specs that were written up. They could offer assistance with this. Jerry Pritchard questioned why not discuss grants with Mike Muffley. Cindy Miller questioned why you would pay someone to write a grant when there are people in house who could write a grant. The grants needed to develop parks would be millions. The engineer is only providing a construction estimate. A consultant would provide a plan for all of the Township parks.

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Jerry Pritchard questioned why we would get a consultant to do a plan when the Township Engineer can do it for us. Cindy Miller commented the engineer provided an estimate for doing a tennis court. Is he a park and recreation expert? Does he specialize in park and recreation plans. The comprehensive park plan is not just for the tennis court. Sandy Hopkins commented he has not provided information that he is able to do this. Jerry Pritchard commented Mike Muffley told him he would be to do a plan. Cindy Miller questioned how the engineer would be able to do a plan for all our parks when he did not have the time to be able to complete the zoning ordinances and SALDO and we needed to get a consultant to complete that project. He may be able to provide a plan for the tennis courts, but that is not what we are talking about when we are looking for a parks and rec consultant. We are talking about a plan for all of our parks.

Janet Sheats questioned how, if the Township doesn't have the money to do this, will we have the money to encompass all the plans after a consultant says parks in Pennsylvania have this, this and this, and you should have that. Cindy Miller commented you would go get money like we did for the public works building. We couldn't afford that for 20 years. Sandy Hopkins noted without the funding, we still wouldn't have a maintenance building for another 20 years. Patrick VanderPloeg commented his question was specific to the tennis court project and whether or not there was any grant funding available for a tennis court. If there is money out there, let's go get it.

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to move this to the Supervisors to put the project to bid. Sandy Hopkins seconded the motion. Sandy Hopkins and Patrick VanderPloeg voted aye. Jerry Pritchard and David Hess were opposed. David Hess commented he would like it to go to the Supervisors for discussion.

Sandy Hopkins made a motion to move this forward to the Board of Supervisors. Patrick VanderPloeg seconded the motion. All vote aye.

2025 Tree Lighting. Alice Rehrig reported she spoke with Frank Zamadics and he believes we could accommodate 20 trees with LED lights. Patrick VanderPloeg commented he is not in agreement with this. He doesn't believe people will be walking around the track to see them other than when the tree lighting is held. We don't have the population like they do in Palmerton. If no one is going to be coming to see them,

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what is the point of having them. There will also be a minimal cost of electricity to the Township. With the cost of trees, he doesn't believe it will be practical for the efforts that need to go in. Most tree farms are out of trees by the week after Thanksgiving. He also believes they are going to be quite expensive. Sandy Hopkins agreed with Patrick VanderPloeg. The trees are beautiful in the other communities, but they don't provide what we do for tree lighting. With everything that is done for the tree lighting, she doesn't think we need more. Jerry Pritchard commented he is concerned that there is limited staffing at that time of year and other projects they need to do.

Sandy Hopkins commented she spoke with Frank Zamadics as to what is needed to have a balled tree and what size. He suggested a 12 foot tree. Patrick VanderPloeg commented if we plant our own tree, someone will need to groom the tree to make it look nice. He believes it would be best to continue with the donated fresh cut tree. It was agreed that a fresh cut tree will continue to be used.

Delps Park Dog Park. David Hess commented the shelters that Allen Township put up in their dog park were 12' X 12' cost \$7,700; 15 X 15 was \$9,000 in 2019. He spoke with Andrejacks and they would be willing to work up a price on a wooden shelter which would be about the same size with 4 X 4 posts. Sandy Hopkins questioned what remained from the money that was previously donated. Alice Rehrig commented there were benches and dog stations purchased for the park.

Baseball Field. Jerry Pritchard commented the holes were dug and inspected. The posts were installed and concreted. Derek Scott is expecting to have the fencing and rails installed over the weekend. David Hess commented the reimbursement from the Lions should be received around May 12.

Sandy Hopkins questioned if there were any complaints received regarding the Northern Lehigh team using the field. Alice Rehrig commented she did not receive any.

Jerry Pritchard questioned when the Senior Night Games were scheduled. Alice Rehrig commented is scheduled for May 5. Northampton has a night game scheduled for April 29.

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#### **New Business**

Food Trucks/Stand Rental. This was tabled from last meeting. Jerry Pritchard commented he was at the last Northampton Baseball Game. There were people patronizing the stand, but he doesn't believe it would be worthwhile for someone to rent the stand. Patrick VanderPloeg commented he is not in agreement with renting the stand knowing the amount of work that is needed to clean the grill. Everyone else agreed that they didn't feel it would be a good idea to get into renting the stand.

Patrick VanderPloeg questioned if there were any plans on opening the stand for the night games. He suggested if it is going to be opened, it be a simple menu of hot dogs and chips. Sandy Hopkins commented they didn't serve fries because they were not able to keep up with the demand. She also raised a concern about the garage door leaking. Everything will need to be cleaned and gone over. She will not be able to clean everything on her own with the game only a week away. It was agreed that the stand will not be opened for the April 29 game and work on getting ready for the Senior Night Game on May 5. Jerry Pritchard commented he thought Northampton was going to try to play another night game; perhaps they can get a game during that week. Janet Sheats suggested getting a food truck for that one night rather than going through the efforts for one night. Patrick VanderPloeg will contact a food truck vendor he is familiar with.

Berlinsville Electric Sign. Sandy Hopkins commented she spoke with Darryl Amey from the Lions Club. They believe that they would be able to get about \$20,000 available between their club and the national club. He also was hoping they could get \$5,000 from the Lioness. Jerry Pritchard commented the signs require internet access or else someone may need to go to the sign to program the sign. Cindy Miller commented it can be done through Bluetooth. There could be advertisements on the sign for events by the Township as well as Lions. It is also possible that others may be interested in paying to advertise on the sign.

Sandy Hopkins commented she has requested Alice Rehrig provide an ongoing expense report for the parks. Alice Rehrig provided the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025.

She would also like the revenues provided as well and the balances of the Recreation Funds.

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**Adjourn.**

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to adjourn. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.