

Lehigh Township Recreation Commission

July 21, 2025

7:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of June 16, 2025, Minutes

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business

2025 Tree Lighting. Sandy Hopkins will need to contact the Lehigh Township Elementary School Choir for the tree lighting. Everyone else whom she needed to contact was contacted. Patrick VanderPloeg is working on finalizing everything with the magician and the balloon artist. He is hoping to have the final information and pricing for the August meeting. If the balloon artist is not available, he does have a backup.

Christmas Trees. Todd Merkle from Palmerton was present to give a description of what the Borough does for their tree lighting. He is willing to donate lights for the large tree. He can also provide the pre-made stands for the trees. The current price of the stands was \$19. Patrick VanderPloeg commented he thought the Rec Board wasn't going to be doing it this year. Janet Sheats commented the Supervisors spoke about it at their last meeting and the Board wanted to move forward with having the small trees. Sandy Hopkins commented the concern was the amount of work it was going to take for Frank Zamadics to get everything together. They felt they did not have enough information and experience to do this at this time along with working on the tree lighting. They thought maybe they could look at doing something next year. This was not really discussed with the Recreation Board. Janet Sheats commented some of the Board members will be willing to take on coordinating trees if the Rec Board is not prepared to do so.

Todd Merkle commented you would just need to get the trees in the stands and run the cords. There will need to be someone who coordinates the emails and tree tags. Palmerton uses the football team to help with the trees.

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Dog Park Shades. There was no additional information regarding the pricing of the shades. The location will also need to be determined. Placing the shelters by the gates may contribute to the issues of the grass getting worn down. It may be better to spread out the traffic at the park to avoid the need for additional mats.

Park Gates. Frank Zamadics marked the general areas where gates could be added for the ballfields. Jeff Erschen questioned the purpose of the gates and commented he has a concern with the location of **Jeff Erschen commented** the purpose of the ~~fence~~ **solid fencing** is to keep the balls in the park. Any ball that the first baseman would miss will go under or out of the gate if it is not completely closed. **Sandy Hopkins commented it was her understanding that the purpose of the gates was for easier access for Frank Zamadics to get equipment in the field, but it was also noted that there is a hill in the area that they would have to climb over.** Vinnie Eiden suggested the outfield may be a better area for adding the gate. The gate for the Danielsville large field is going to be in the area of home plate. She wasn't certain of the location of the small field. Sandy Hopkins will get clarification from Frank Zamadics regarding the gates.

Window at Berlinsville Snack Stand. Sandy Hopkins commented she spoke with Walnutport Door and they **will be looking at the door.** ~~were not interested in fixing the door. She will contact Whitehall Door.~~

Vinnie Eiden also noted that the garage door is broken, the tractor doesn't start, the right front tractor tire doesn't hold air, and a new hood is needed. Sandy Hopkins will talk to Frank Zamadics.

Mats for Dog Park. Linda Roman provided Sandy Hopkins with information pertaining to pet turf that could be installed in the area where there is an issue with the mud. Two rolls would be needed for a total of \$1,614 and \$99 for delivery. In addition to this, modified stone, screening, and concrete sand would be needed to install the turf. The total estimated cost would \$2,432.

Monica Brown also had information regarding interlocking plastic materials that could be used. The estimated cost that she was looking at is \$3,000 David Hess also had provided similar information regarding pavers.

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Jeff Erschen commented you need to consider the number of dogs that will cross the turf area are on a daily or weekly basis because of urine. You are also going to need to routinely spray a chemical to neutralize the urine that is on the turf. You can't just let it go; otherwise, the turf will start to break down and also encourage more dogs to go in the area. The Township will probably also need to post when they spray it.

Monica Brown commented they are looking for a solution to eliminate the mud so that the park doesn't have to get closed in the spring.

New Business

Public Comment. Jeff Erschen questioned how often the schedule is updated on the website. Alice Rehrig commented she usually has it updated within 24 hours. Jeff Erschen noted there are games being listed on the schedule that don't get played and if the schedule was updated, then other teams could use the field, especially when you have a season with a lot of rain. Jerry Pritchard commented communication between the teams would help resolve this. Jeff Erschen also noted that there were dates blocked off for the Junior Connie Mack that were not needed. Alice Rehrig commented she did block off slots for Connie Mack since they were in the playoffs so they had the opportunity to be able to play a playoff game on their home field. There were two days which there was a conflict and the coaches were going to try to work something out. She held one or two days for rain dates because of the weather forecast. Jerry Pritchard commented he doesn't agree with the adults not working with the kids that they were forced to play their game in Saucon Valley. Vinnie Eiden commented there has always been a gentleman's agreement that the adults would move if there is youth team that needed the field for playoffs.

Team Requirements. Jeff Erschen questioned why the fees were increased for the field. Jerry Pritchard commented everyone who is using the field is providing material into the field. The teams were working together to provide the material that was needed. The Township was providing the start up material and material for the senior nights.

Jeff Erschen questioned if the teams are signing the form regarding the way the field is supposed to be maintained and who is checking on it. The dugouts are not being swept and the mound and home plate are not being raked. The field was not properly

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maintained when Northern Lehigh used the field. In addition, the weed whacking is not getting done. Sandy Hopkins commented the Rec Board is not responsible for taking care of the weed wacking.

Linda Roman commented the Board needs to be aware of what they are stating when there are members of the audience present.

Adjourn. Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to adjourn. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion.