

**Lower Salford Township
Park Board Minutes
January 28, 2025**

The January 28, 2025, meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Temporary Chairperson Grace Kelley. In attendance were Kent Krauss, Pete Harubin, Jan Johnson, Ryan Beltz, Amy Burch, Mark Kelley, and Andy Lazzaro.

Ms. Kelley opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson for 2025. Mark Kelley motioned to nominate Kent Krauss and Andy Lazzaro seconded the motion. Nominations for Chairperson were closed. Ms. Kelley requested a motion to appoint Kent Krauss as Park Board Chairman for 2025. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Kelley turned the meeting over to Chairman Kent Krauss.

Chairman Kent Krauss opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman for 2025. Andy Lazzaro motioned to nominate Amy Burch. Jan Johnson motioned to nominate Pete Harubin. Kent Krauss closed the nominations and conducted a vote, which resulted in a 3-3 draw. Amy Burch stepped down from nomination, and Pete Harubin was appointed. Nominations for Vice-Chairman were closed. Chairman Krauss made a motion to appoint Pete Harubin as Park Board Vice-Chairman for 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Krauss asked if Holly Hosterman would continue to perform the duties of Secretary and Ms. Kelley accepted on Ms. Hosterman's behalf.

Chairman Kent Krauss entertained a motion for approval of the October 22, 2024, minutes as presented. Andy Lazzaro motioned for approval of the minutes as written and Pete Harubin seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved as presented.

Chairman Krauss asked if there were any comments from the audience. Stephanie Moyer was recognized. Ms. Moyer asked what the status of the sports organization's player surveys were, and if those results would be publicly available. Chairman Kent Krauss informed her that data collection should be complete by the next All Sports Meeting on February 11, 2025, and that the data would be scrubbed of players personal info, and potentially available on request.

Vivek George was also recognized. Vivek presented to the Park Board a request for a Dog Park within Lower Salford Township. Mr. George shared personal experiences of taking his dog to other parks such as Bark Park in North Wales, and the dog park in Hatfield. This request was on the basis of building a stronger, pet-friendly community, and Mr. Vivek came prepared with a document about the benefits, and possible locations. Chairman Kent Krauss welcomed his request and explained the history of Dog Park requests in the Township, and told Mr. Vivek that the Board would take it into consideration and visit some of the parks Vivek mentioned.

Joan DiMaria from Historical society brought the Calendar of events with her. Holly will be receiving the Civil Reenactment Park use request form. Ms. DiMaria also brought a "wish list" of project requests to be completed within the historical buildings around the Township. She has

also visited the Moyer house recently and took interior doors from the building to be used elsewhere. Ryan Beltz mentioned his main concern at Reiff was the roof. Kent Krauss mentioned that repair for the roof is budgeted for 2025. Mark mentioned that the stucco near the chimney was falling apart/missing, and Ryan added that there was a broken window there as well. Mr. Beltz also mentioned that the first floor of Reiff house feels “spongy” and could be a hazard to larger groups.

Electric work was done at Reiff but has one concern about an outlet that is out of the wall. Joan would like to create a research center and museum set up in the house.

Joan mentioned that there is no security at Bergey Mill house, and shared fears that once the bridge is repaired, there will be more traffic and an increased threat of vandalism. Ms. Kelley noted that The Township is working on getting electric and security cameras at the park.

Joan also mentioned an interest in planting memorial trees for various individuals at Bergey Mill.

Joan noted that the Lower Salford Historical Society and the Heckler Plains Folklife Society have been combined under one name to be The Lower Salford Historical and Folklife Society

Chairman Krauss asked Ms. Kelley for a quick summary of the upcoming Planning Commission Agenda. She noted that the agenda did not have any trail connections or open space to discuss at this time.

The following reports were given for the various Township parks:

Alderfer Park – Jan reported everything looks good. She discussed that the Story Walk is due to have a new story installed. Ms. Johnson also referred to the TuffnTuffer Softball tournament that occurred on the weekend of October 26th. Upon her visit, she noted that the parking situation was very poor, and thus she called the non-emergency police number to have them mitigate.

Bergey Park – Andy reported that everything looked good, but there were a few potholes in the parking lots.

Briarwyck Park – Amy said that the park was completely snow covered.

Bucher Park – Mark reported that there were dogs playing inside of the Hockey rink. The dogs did use the bathroom within the enclosed area but were cleaned up after. Mr. Kelley also noted that on one corner of the basketball court, the top layer of paint was unfortunately chipping.

Dannerth Memorial Park – Mark had nothing to report. Snow covered.

Groff’s Mill Park – Andy reported that everything looked fine.

Heckler Plains Farmstead – Pete had no report.

Kulp Road Pond Park – Kent reported that the pond is frozen.

Park Avenue Field – Amy reported that both fields were covered in snow. Chairman Kent Krauss brought up the topic of the fence that the Harleysville Eagles are requesting for fundraising/advertisement use. Chairman Kent Krauss entertained a motion for approval of the fence at Park Avenue Fields. Andy Lazzaro motioned to approve, and Jan Johnson seconded the motion. It passed 5-1, with Amy Burch being the one.

Reed Park – Pete noted that everything looks good, but he noticed tire marks through some areas of the park. Chairman Kent Kraus noted that off-roading is grounds for calling the non-emergency number and should be reported as soon as it is noticed.

Reiff Park Ryan reported that everything looked good, however there were a few Christmas tree drop offs on the lower field of the park.

Roth Park – Mark reported that everything looked good.

Trail Report – Jan mentioned that a few parts of the trails looked to have been shoveled, which did create iciness after it refroze. Ms. Johnson inquired if that was something Public Works has done, or other residents.

Wawa Park – Ryan reported that the park looks good and looks like it has gotten use since the snow, and possibly ATV activity.

Kiosk Report – Amy said that the kiosk all looks good. She did inquire about the Samuel Harley Park signs that are located along the path that extends from Yoder Road up to Hunsberger.

Under New Business, Chairman Krauss noted that the Township will meet with the All Sports Meeting on February 11th and encouraged anyone who was interested to join. Chairman Kent Krauss was happy to report that there would be a representative from Souderton Area School District to speak on district sport court usage for local organizations.

The Board reviewed a request for a small shed by the Harleysville Community Center, who utilizes the facilities at Bucher Park for summer camps. The Board agreed that option “A”, nearest the portable toilets, was the best option for shed placement, though the final decision is up to Doug Jones. Chairman Krauss entertained a motion to approve the shed. Mark Kelley motioned for approval and Andy Lazzaro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

Ms. Kelley reported that the township was preparing to apply for grant funds from the DCNR and Montco2040 Implementation Program for an Alderfer Park Playground Expansion. This project would entail additional play equipment to include ADA-complaint equipment that is both accessible for children with physical disabilities and inclusive of children w/ sensory sensitivities. Grace offered to advertise the next Park Board meeting to invite the general public to gather input and support, to ensure the park is truly inclusive for a diverse population. It will be added to next month’s agenda.

The Board revisited the dog park idea, and agreed to see how they could pursue it at a later date.

Joan DiMaria opened a discussion of America 250 celebration and asked if the Township would be forming a committee, as The Lower Salford Historical and Folklife Society would like to be involved. Ms. DiMaria recommended joining forces with a neighboring municipality for an event.

Under Old Business, there were no known upgrades to Briarwyck since the last meeting.

Andy and Amy from the trails committee reported on their meeting from the previous evening that was held on Zoom. They reported that Kulp Road sidewalk was discussed.

Mark Kelley inquired about updates on the Pickleball court at Heckler Park. Chairman Kent Krauss noted that it has been budgeted for 2025.

There being no further business, Chairman Krauss entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Andy Lazzaro motioned for approval and Pete Harubin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Park Board will be February 25, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Kelley, Interim Secretary