

November 15, 2009

To: Bob King, Chairman, Mt. Airy Board of P&R
From: Patrick Ronan, Secretary

Subject: **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2009 MEETING OF THE MT. AIRY BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION HELD AT MT. AIRY HALL.**

Attendance: Gary Nelson, Drew Heck (presiding), Patty Williamson, Pat Ronan,
Tucker Lazarus, Larry Hushour, Steve Adams
Absent: Steve Mullinix, Bob King
Staff: Mary VanMetre
Press: Michelle Cook (Mt. Airy Messenger)

--Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

--The minutes for the September meeting was approved as submitted.

The **Field Assignments** for 2010 will be discussed at the November meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation. It was suggested, as in prior years, that the leaders of MAYAA and Four County Little League get together informally sometime before the November meeting to try and work out an agreement as to field usage so that such proposal can then be submitted to the Board for review. Drew Heck was to contact MAYAA and Pat Ronan was to contact FCLL to request that the two organizations meet to discuss the issue.

Don Gorman, a town resident, addressed the Board to convey his opinions on the proposed annexation of property off Buffalo Road that may be used to build a **commercial sports/recreation center**. He wanted the Board to know that he believed a majority of the people/town residents at the recent Town Council meeting were in favor of the complex. He also noted several factual corrections to the accounts he had read in the newspaper regarding the issue. Gary Nelson pointed out that our Board has no jurisdiction over that issue.

Emmett Full also addressed the Board regarding the proposed annexation of property off Buffalo Road that may be used to build a **commercial sports/recreation center**. Mr. Full owns the subject property and he said he thought he should have been advised ahead of time that the Board intended to discuss the issue at the October meeting. Both Gary Nelson and Pat Ronan advised Mr. Full that the Board did not discuss the issue, rather it simply confirmed that it did **not** have any jurisdiction over the issue and, therefore, would **not** take up the issue in any way.

Gary Nelson Report

--Doc Full is no longer interested in mowing Windy Ridge Park for the hay, so Steve Mullinix is checking into whether other farmers may be interested in harvesting the hay there at no cost.

--We just had an offer of **3 Norway Spruces** that are about 11 feet tall.

--Gary just confirmed with Monika that there is a **space under the town hall stairs** where we can **store the movie system**, at least temporarily.

--Gary came across a new **grant for the acquisition of land for things that benefit children** such as nature trails, appreciation of wildlife, etc. However, we really need a Recreation Coordinator to look into this grant and then administer it.

--The **Skate Park** is closing down soon for the winter, however, if people would like it to be open for some limited hours, then we need qualified volunteers to supervise the Park during scheduled times. The normal fees will still be in effect.

Mr. Nelson also noted some “**essential tasks**” that need staff follow-up, including:

- 1.) Program Open Space
- 2.) Department of Natural Resources Playground Fund
- 3.) State Highway Administration Grant for Rails to Trails
- 4.) Children in Nature Initiative
- 5.) Obtaining Rights of Way for Rails to Trails Properties
- 6.) CSX to be contacted for Rails to Trails permission along abandoned portion of rail line
- 7.) Gary also wants to be advised of any other “essential” functions for staff assignment

--The **Windy Ridge Master Plan** was supposed to have been out in mid-October, but it is still not out. Gary wants to demand that it be out by sometime in November at the latest.

--We are getting closer on our **easements for Rails to Trails**.

--The **property owned by Carroll County right off Route 27** has some water issues. Gary wants to approach the County about developing the property.

Mount Airy Dog Park Update was provided by Larry Hushour.

--The walking path to the gate is in.

--Six park benches will be going in very shortly. All benches will have sponsors’ names on the backs.

--Steve Mullinix is mowing the area as needed.

--For 2010, the pass/license will be \$20 for out of town. It will have a different color than the one for the town residents. We need to get the 2010 pass ready by December 1 so Pet Loft is ready to sell it for the holiday season. There is no fee to renew the pass for town residents.

--2 Pet Waste Posts are now at the dog park. We need to educate the public on how to use them.

Drew Heck noted that there was a problem with pet waste on the soccer field at the Twin Arch soccer field. It was agreed this would be a good place to place a new pet waste post.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.