Minutes of Meeting
Lake Topanemus Park Commission

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Borough Hall
30 Mechanic Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

- Call to Order / Statement of Compliance Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with the Open Public Meetings Act.

- Roll Call
  Commissioners

Present:	Absent:
Bob Higley	Roger Kane
Joe Luongo	
Mike Phillips	
Chris Kean	
Kirk Tibbett	
Edward Daley	
Greg Jewell	

  Secretary: Lisa Tiedemann
  Guests: Michael DiBenedetto, Bill Degnan, Jessica Schoener, Mary Ann Kenny, Robert Lithgow and Bill Brash

- Introduction of Guests:
  - Jessica Schoener and Mary Ann Kenny representatives of the Freehold Elks Lodge #1454 proposed funds for ADA acceptable swing to be added to the current swing set and a communication board for use by an autistic nonverbal child. Explained how it would work and shared pictures of the board with the commission. The Elks would like signage on the board to indicate the donation from the Freehold Elks Lodge. Discussion by the commission, decided the swing could wait until the new swing set was set up and further questions about the board. The commission thanked Jessica and Mary Ann for the interest in Lake Topanemus.

Motion to accept the proposal from the Freehold Elks Lodge for the Communication Board made by Commissioner Kean, seconded by Commissioner Luongo. All in favor

  - Robert Lithgow from the Freehold Borough Shade Tree Commission introduced Bill Brash, forester consultant for Freehold Borough. Mr. Brash explained that he had been contacted 2-3 years ago to assist with writing plans and applying for grants. Working with the Monmouth County Soil Conservation District the grants from the USDA have been approved in the amount of $13,000.00 over the next three years. The Monmouth County Soil Conservation District will be the intermediator handling the money. Mr. Brash shared photos of the area they will be working on which is just off the Robertsville Road entrance. Invasive species, over-mature stands of trees, fallen trees and heavy undergrowth will be removed, along with remediation after in the final phase including woody residue treatment, piling, cutting, burning and plantings. Discussion by the commission with questions regarding location, time line, and problems with deer and the new plantings.

Motion to accept the proposal for the forestry plan made by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Daley. All in favor

- Review of minutes from February 21,2024.

Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Commissioner Luongo, seconded by Commissioner Kean. All in favor.

- Treasurer's report –
    - Commissioner Luongo reported a balance as of March 20, 2024 of $2,606.44. Approval requested for recurring monthly expenses toilet rental, secretarial services and purchase of seeds, and lumber - $796.98.

  Motion to accept report as presented and approval of expenses made by Commissioner Daley, Seconded by Commissioner Tibbett. All in favor.

- Correspondence – Nothing at this time.

- Old Business –
    - Lake Restoration – Plantings along the edge of the lake will continue at the next work day.
        - Projects for 2023 – Spring work project day has been changed to April 6, 2024 due to the probability of inclement weather.
        - Bumpers in Parking Lot – Spring work project
        - Widening parking lot entrances – Spring work project
        - Structure behind Shed – Spring work project
        - Bat Boxes – Commission Jewell completed hanging the boxes.
        - Underbrush Clean Up – Spring work project

- New Business – Nothing at this time.

- Commissioners Report-
    - Commissioner Kean – No report at this time.
    - Commissioner Phillips – Shared letter his has proposed for additional funding.
    - Commissioner Tibbet – No report at this time.
    - Commissioner Daley – Commissioner Daley thanked those that joined him for the St. Patrick's Day parade, and spoke about the enormous crowd of people lining the street. He stated that during the Olde Freehold Day event he will be setting up the Commissions tent by the Art Society's gallery so they will be closer to the paddleboats and canoes. Volunteers were requested to schedule time to help with the paddleboats and canoes. Commissioner Daley stated that the Harvesting program will continue and to notify the borough.
    - Commissioner Luongo – Reminded the commissioner that it was time to order another porta potty. Commissioner Luongo stated he is looking into getting a copy of the Resolution and Amendment with Freehold Township and Borough.
    - Commissioner Jewell – No report at this time.

- Guest Reports –
    - Mike DiBenedetto – No report at this time.
    - Bill Degnan – Nothing at this time.

- Public Comments – None

- Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Commissioner Luongo, seconded by Commissioner Kean. All in favor.