



## Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of the July 14, 2025 Meeting

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### **In Attendance:**

Joseph Meehan, Chair  
Dr. Richard Costlow, Vice Chair  
Nancy Becker  
Michon Blake

Robert DeHaven  
Todd Fisher  
Katie Cleary — Township Events Coordinator

### **Excused:**

Dave Sponseller  
Joe Rumsey

Dan Vaitis  
Kristen Warner — Board of Supervisors Liaison

### **Other Attendees:**

John French

### **MEETING FORMALITIES**

In accordance with the agenda Mr. Meehan, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. All present participated in the pledge of allegiance. The 14JUL2025 meeting of the OPEN SPACE AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING began and minutes of the meeting are reported here.

### **OPENING COMMENTS** {Agenda Item 3}

Mr. Meehan noted that he will record the audio of the meeting as a convenience in preparing the minutes. He met with David Kraynik, the Township Manager, on July 10th who provided an update on items of interest to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC). Discussion was deferred on the topics to the agenda items as they arose during the meeting.

Ms. Cleary commented that after the June concert in Fischer Park she saw multiple juveniles riding E-motorized bikes and/or scooters both on and off the paved paths in the park. It was after dusk, the concert crowd was leaving the performance, and many people were walking to the parking lots. Despite two requests to the juveniles from Township personnel to stop riding, the riding continued. This was viewed as a significant safety hazard and a practice that must be curtailed. A review of the Township rules for parks indicated “unauthorized motor vehicles, whether licensed or unlicensed, unlicensed, including motorbikes, motorcycles, mini-bikes, snowmobiles and any other motorized vehicles or cycles, are not permitted in the parks”. These are posted at the entrance but not prominently displayed.

The action point was for JM to speak to Mr. Kraynik about the problem and suggest with a bit more attention from the police to remind kids of the safety concerns and the restrictions, the issue would likely diminish or disappear. More prominently displayed signage, noting the restriction on motorized vehicles, was also suggested, with assurance that the restrictions do not apply to motor-assisted wheelchairs or other medically necessary conveyances in the park.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** {Agenda Item 5}

There was one member of the public attending to discuss geocaching. Comments were deferred to that agenda item.

**APPROVAL OF OSPAC MINUTES – RE: Meeting of June 09, 2025 {Agenda Item 6}**

There were no additions or deletions. A noted typographical error will be corrected in the issued minutes of the June 09, 2025 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was voiced by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Blake. A quorum of Committee members voted unanimously in favor of the motion; the 09JUN2025 minutes are approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS - updates provided by Mr. Meehan are incorporated {Agenda Item 7}****Capital Budget Requests for 2026 to Towamencin Township**

There were eight (8) capital projects considered for inclusion in the proposed 2026 capital budget for parks. OSPAC determined all 8 were appropriate for capital requests. The projects are:

- |                                                                            |                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ❖ Complete Kriebel Road Trail Phase III                                    | ❖ Replace the roof of the Beck's Pavilion in Fischer's Park                                          |
| ❖ Build pickleball courts at Butch Clemens Park                            | ❖ Install way-finding signs in Fischer's Park                                                        |
| ❖ Continue the tree planting program                                       | ❖ Create playable surfaces on the courts at Valley View Way Cul-de-sac for basketball and pickleball |
| ❖ Expand parking at Green Lane Park                                        |                                                                                                      |
| ❖ Complete connecting trail from the Trumbauer Trail to Spring Valley Road |                                                                                                      |

Additional information on each project is included below in the Updates section of the Minutes

**PROJECT UPDATES****Kriebel Road Trail Phase III**

The \$250K grant request under the *Montgomery County 2040 Program* for this trail extension was not funded. This Kriebel Road Trail III [KRT3] extension was proposed to run from the terminus of the current trail near the Towamencin Municipal Authority, across Bustard Road, and connect to the existing trail in Fischer Park. The Township is asked to re-apply for an identical grant in 2026, possibly using a different consultant to write the grant.

**Grist Mill Park Infrastructure Improvements**

The \$250K grant request under the *Montgomery County 2040 Program* for refurbishment of the drainage retention basins in Grist Mill Park was funded. Repairs and maintenance as well as functionality upgrades to the basins is included in the grant. The contracting process will proceed as usual.

**Grist Mill Park Recreational Improvements**

Progress was slowed dramatically by protracted rainy weather. A supply chain difficulty for delivery of the proposed pre-fabricated pavilion to the site has halted this phase completely. Remedies are being pursued, however a significant delay in project completion is anticipated (estimates are one to several months).

**Grist Mill Park Connector Path from Grist Mill Drive to the Park - Grant Application**

No change since last meeting; grants submitted; awards are expected to be announced later in 2025.

*DCED Greenway Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) [\$250,000 request]*

*DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) [\$159,012 request]*

**Green Lane Road Park Soccer Field**

Site grading, topsoil/amendment and seeding by Land Tec Enterprises are substantially complete. Healthy growth of the turf is part of the landscaping project and will continue to be monitored. There was an inquiry on the \$1,050,000 total cost estimate for the project which seemed high given the parameters of the project. Mr. Meehan will review again with Mr. Kraynik and provide an update.

There is a clear need for additional parking; paved parking may have been included in the cost estimate figure. OSPAC discussed several aspects of this need (# of cars, location, drainage or runoff to Kriebel Road).

OSPAC concluded:

- ❖ additional parking is needed
- ❖ a paved surface is not required
- ❖ runoff control is essential and
- ❖ a physical barrier of some sort needs to be erected to prevent both vehicle and pedestrian access to the fields during the growth and stabilization phase of the turf on the pitch.

**Pickleball Courts at Butch Clemens Park**

No change since last meeting; grants submitted; no response from DCNR or DCED

*DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) [\$533,973 request]*

*DCED Greenways Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) [\$250,000 request]*

Part of the proposed budget for 2026 will be to apply for a \$60,000 grant to upgrade the current concept plan to a full engineering design for the site.

**Planting Trees in 2025 and Tree Bank Update**

There are several additional tree planting locations to be determined in 2025 and the budget for 2026 is currently \$25,000. The proposal to plant trees in the designated containers at Grist Mill Park and a recommendation to plant trees along Kriebel Road in Green Lane Park were accepted. These are in addition to the locations yet to be designated elsewhere for 2025/2026.

**Veterans Memorial Park Engineering Plans**

No change in status was communicated regarding the proposal by PSDC (Mark Nicoletti) for an exchange of land owned by PSDC adjacent to Tomlinson Road for land owned by the Township. The impediment of the Township land being preserved open space still exists. The proposal, if accepted, will affect Veterans Memorial Park plans therefore OSPAC asked that additional details of any proposal and accompanying reviews by the Township or the Solicitor be communicated to OSPAC before further action is taken.

**Geocaching**

The proposal to adopt draft guidelines for a change in the Township Ordinance to permit geocaching in Towamencin was presented at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and accepted by the Board of Supervisors. Final guidelines will be posted on the Township website. The OSPAC thanks John French, a geocaching advocate and Township resident, for his contributions which made this change possible. The OSPAC, the Township Manager, the Chief of police and the Township Director of Administration will be notified of the posting of the guidelines.

**America 250 Committee**

Ms. Blake reported that the first meeting of the Committee occurred. It was primarily a brain-storming session, and no details were provided to OSPAC. Subsequent meetings will be on the third Monday of each month. Proposals or decisions from future meetings and tie-ins with other groups will be reported to OSPAC as appropriate. At its July 9, 2025 meeting, the official date of the America 250 Celebration in Towamencin was adopted by the BOS as 25JUN2026.

**Creation of an OSPAC Email and Cloud Storage of Documents**

Details of discussions with the Township were reported for Dr. Costlow's previous proposal to create a Gmail address for OSPAC [ [Towamencin.OSPAC@Gmail.com](mailto:Towamencin.OSPAC@Gmail.com) ] and Google Cloud storage for OSPAC documents. The Township had no objections. The committee approved the creation of the email and the account. Dr. Costlow indicated he would create the account and notify OSPAC members, all of whom will be given editor-level access to facilitate information sharing. The account will include 15GB of free digital storage.

**Complete the Trumbauer Trail to Spring Valley Road connector**

This item appears here to reflect the OSPAC discussion of the project as it occurred in the dialog on the 2026 capital budget. The Spring Valley neighborhood indicated in a previous OSPAC that this connector was acceptable if sight lines from the trail to the houses could be obstructed. Some plantings along the Trumbauer Trail were done to accommodate this. The suggestion by Dr. Costlow to make additional plantings along the proposed connector route was not accepted due to the risk of damage or destruction of those plantings during the construction of the connector. A proposal to fund the engineering necessary for construction of the connector was included as a 2026 capital budget request.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION****Replace the roof of the Beck's Pavilion and Way-finding Signs in Fischer's Park**

Several replacements, refurbishments and upgrades are needed in Fischer Park. Replacement of the Beck Pavilion roof was the primary project proposed. Way-finding signs and position markers on the trails are also needed in addition to the existing trail description sign. A survey of all the existing signs was suggested with an eye to replacing faded or otherwise unreadable signs. A discussion occurred of replacing or demolishing the Stable Pavilion. OSPAC concluded this is not an immediate need. Additional parking options for major events remains a high priority. Both were discussed, but no recommendations were adopted.

OSPAC concluded:

- ❖ replacement of the Beck Pavilion roof is needed
- ❖ installation of way-finding signs and position markers improve park safety and speed emergency response time; they should be considered

**Refurbish Courts on Valley View Way Cul-de-sac**

This item appears here to reflect the OSPAC perception of the project as it was debated within the discussion of the 2026 capital budget. The Valley View Way neighborhood indicated in the June OSPAC meeting that these courts were in major disrepair. They asked that the hard-surface courts at the cul-de-sac be resurfaced or refurbished at minimal cost to create playable surfaces on the courts; one for basketball and one for pickleball. The latter surface should be appropriately lined for pickleball. Resident users would need to provide their own net. This was judged to be an adequate disincentive to non-residents utilizing the court. A proposal to fund the resurfacing was entered as a 2026 capital budget request.

An extensive and wide-ranging discussion on paved playing surfaces for residents' recreation ensued. The consensus was that options for Valley View Way courts, Heebner Park, Fischer Park tennis court and other surfaces should be considered to repurpose these surfaces to match Township residents' desires.

**NEW BUSINESS** -{Agenda Item 8}

No new subjects were proposed.

**ADJOURNMENT** {Agenda Item 9}

There being no other new business topics or discussions, Mr. Meehan entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was voiced by Ms. Becker and seconded by Dr. Costlow. A quorum of Committee members voted unanimously in favor of the motion; the July 14, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Richard D. Costlow  
Vice Chair, Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

**Next Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting - August 12, 2025**