



TOWN OF BERLIN
BERLIN FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6pm
Berlin Town Hall – Council Chambers
10 William Street
Berlin, MD 21811

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes—April 19, 2018 Meeting
2. Project Coordinator Report
3. Park Suggestions Discussion

**Berlin Falls Park Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 19th, 2018**

Present: Amy Field, Amy Barra, Councilmember Troy Purnell, Kate Patton, Shaneka Nichols, Kate Gaddis, Roger Fitzgerald

Absent: Councilmember Zackery Tyndall, Bruce Hyder, Joan Maloof

Town of Berlin Staff: Laura Allen, David Deutsch, David Engelhart

Minutes Submitted by: Jack Orris

Discussion	Action
<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p>	<p>Motion to approve minutes by J. Orris; second K. Gaddis – approve unanimously.</p>
<p><u>Project Coordinator Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ David Englehart provided information to the group regarding the pathway progress. Currently, the pathway is planned to begin at the south side of Old Ocean City Blvd near the tracks and continue into town. Further north, the bridge at Kitts Branch would have to be completely rebuilt in order to extend the pathway to US Route 50. Dave reiterated funding is always a concern for the pathway, as the Town of Berlin is in competition with municipalities across the state. K. Patton asked about the possibility of walking paths in the woods and J. Orris suggested we keep the bridge as a future project. ➤ The online suggestion box link has been posted on the town website, David Duetsch reported. A. Barra asked how this link would be promoted. L. Allen stated we would still have some PR to do for the link, but she will insert the information in the new <i>Berlin Bulletin</i>. ➤ Two dog waste disposer stations have been ordered-the exact models suggested by A. Barra. ➤ David D. met with town staff to coordinate a paving contract for the entrance of the park. Approximately 50 ft. from Old OC Blvd, this is an effort to enhance the exact location of the entrance and address safety concerns. 	<p>Promote the new online suggestion box in the next issue of the <i>Berlin Bulletin</i>. Committee members are also encouraged to think about using their Facebook pages.</p> <p>Berlin public works will install, once disposal stations arrive.</p> <p>Anticipated to be completed before next BFPAC meeting in May.</p>

Discussion	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The rebuilding of the bridge to the Senior Center was discussed. D. Deutsch reached out to Worcester County, but hasn't heard anything further. ➤ "Get Ramped" event would like to hold their event on the BFP property again this year. Mr. Tres Denk met with town staff and Mr. Denk would need Mayor & Council approval. R. Fitzgerald asked about any necessary insurance and L. Allen advised the requirements are the same as last year, and held by "Get Ramped". ➤ Per L. Allen, State Highway is in the process of adding "Town Park" signage on Rt. 50 and Rt. 113. 	<p>Continued follow up with Worcester County regarding interest in rebuilding the bridge.</p> <p>The BFPAC would like to see any attendance numbers from last year, as well as an update throughout the season this year.</p> <p>Update at next BFPAC meeting.</p>

Salisbury University students

- Bee City USA© was presented to the committee. This organization, facilitated by Salisbury University, allows for town parks to dedicate specific areas to bee pollination, as well as bee boxes. The type of pollinators used would attract nature bees, that are non-swarming bees, and can be placed in areas not necessary accessible to the general public, if desired. A Bee City USA © designation would be presented before Mayor & Council. K. Patton noted that bee pollination concerns are across the whole shore. J. Orris suggested that the bee boxes be built and then could be used at town events for kids to paint, such as National Night Out. A. Field asked if SU students would check yearly and continue the process and they indicated that they would as SU and town already have a working relationship. Discussion continued on the importance of having pollinators within the park. K. Patton and R. Fitzgerald asked about possible locations of the pollinator gardens and bee boxes.
- Presentation of signage options were presented to the BFPAC. A. Barra asked how the process of ordering, manufacturing, and installation of signs would occur. The students stated that these are simply plans on types of signage and suggested locations within the park to install. Whatever sign design is chosen, a consistent look is of utmost importance. A variety of sign designs was presented and discussion followed.

Bee City USA © resolution will be on the May 14th Mayor & Council meeting agenda; BFPAC members are encouraged to attend.

Discussion

Action

Interpretive Plan Presentation – Conservation Community Consulting, LLC

- Dave Wilson and Jim Rapp presented to the BFPAC the interpretive signage drafts. These signs would be installed in various locations within the park to describe wildlife present. The drafts currently read “Birds of Berlin Falls Park”, J. Orris suggested a change be made to remove the name and change to “Birds of Berlin”, as the name could be changed in the future, but don’t want to hold off on the signs. A. Barra suggested a “tagline” approach to grab more attention to the signs. Discussion followed on the feasibility of having the signs changed removing a specific name, and Mr. Rapp and Mr. Wilson agreed to reword the project for further review.
- R. Fitzgerald asked for clarification on whether a floating turtle basking area is better, or should they be fixed within the ponds. Mr. Rapp indicated that floating is better.
- A. Field asked for advice on the best way to differentiate between the active and passive parts of the park and also stated that J. Maloof had reported an interest in ice skating on the ponds. After discussion, one of the best ways of differentiating the areas is signage and the activities that are available. J. Rapp stated Ice skating probably isn’t feasible on the actual ponds, due to the weather in our area, but that doesn’t rule out a manmade ice skating area.
- Discussion followed while reviewing the interpretive plan, and L. Allen asked if fireworks, such as the Fourth of July event, affect the BFP habitat negatively. Mr. Rapp reported that events that happen once a year don’t seem to bother any of the species in BFP. Citing his research, any birds that left BFP around the time of Fourth of July 2017 have since returned and the resilience of other species is impressive.
- Mr. Wilson and Mr. Rapp recommend to BFPAC keeping all the ponds and don’t interfere with them, aside from maintenance and herbicidal spraying. Berlin has been gifted with certain species of nature that exist only in certain ponds.

Conservation Community Consulting, LLC and David D. to continue working together on signage rewording.

Discussion	Action
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Outstanding Issues/Follow-Up

None at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Berlin Falls Park Advisory Committee will be Thursday, May 17th 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Town Hall.