

PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

**November 3, 2015, 5:30 PM
Berlin Town Hall Conference Room**

1. Approval of Minutes of September 1, 2015
2. Old Business
 - a) Edible Forest proposal – Assateague Coastal Trust and Stephen Decatur Middle School
 - b) Just Walk, Berlin! Saturday, November 14, 2015
3. New Business
 - a) Just Walk Berlin Spring 2016
4. Berlin Youth Program Update
5. Other

MINUTES – PARKS COMMISSION
September 1, 2015

A meeting of the Berlin Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 5:30 PM. Commission members Loretta Briddell, Patricia Dufendach, Sarah Hooper, Bruce Hyder and Mike Wiley were present as well as Administrative Services Director Mary Bohlen. Amanda Chaffee of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling was also present as well as several members of the public.

The Commission reviewed the Minutes of June 2, 2015. Mr. Wiley moved to approve the Minutes as written and approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen brought the Commission's attention to photos included in their packet of the completed monument for Dr. William Henry. The Commission discussed holding a dedication ceremony. Ms. Bohlen indicated that she would contact the NAACP, Germantown School and the Board of Education for assistance. Following discussion a tentative date of Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11 AM was set.

Miss Ellie Zollinger addressed the Commission regarding her proposal for a Little Free Library to be placed in Henry Park. The Little Free Library is a non-profit organization which promotes the building of small boxes to be placed in public areas and contain books to be borrowed and returned. Miss Zollinger's parents, Rose and Brian, who were also present, would be responsible for building the library and Miss Zollinger would act as steward until she graduates high school, at which time stewardship will be turned over to another student. Following additional discussion, Mr. Wiley made a motion to recommend approval of the project to the Mayor and Council and approval was unanimous. The Zollingers would be at the September 14, 2015 Mayor and Council Meeting to request approval.

Mr. Matt Heim and Dorothy Baker of Assateague Coastal Trust and Ms. Kristen Jackson of Stephen Decatur Middle School appeared before the Commission to present an Edible Forest project for consideration. The Edible Forest was being proposed for Stephen Decatur Park near the no-mow zone and would consist of fruit and nut trees and other edible plants. Following discussion regarding ongoing care and learning more about experiences other communities have had with this type of project, Ms. Dufendach made a motion to recommend approval to the Mayor and Council and approval was unanimous. A presentation would be made to the Mayor and Council at their October 26, 2015 Meeting.

Ms. Bohlen informed the Commission that she had attended a meeting with the Worcester County Health Department regarding the "Just Walk" event. Berlin's walk was scheduled for November 14, 2015. There would be a planning meeting on September 9, 2015 at 9:00 AM in the Visitor's Center; she invited any Parks Commission member who would be able to attend. Ms. Bohlen indicated that the event needed to be "freshened up" and that this year would feature a longer route.

Ms. Bohlen discussed a link she had recently sent to a YouTube video of a pumpkin decorating event. Ms. Bohlen noted that the Economic Development Coordinator, Ivy Wells, had brought it to her attention as a possible new event. Following brief discussion, the Parks Commission indicated that this would be something they would be interested in pursuing in 2016.

Ms. Chaffee provided an update on the Berlin Youth Clubs Summer activities and upcoming activities.

Ms. Bohlen noted that she would be out of the office for an extended period in September and into October, which would include the date of the next scheduled Parks Commission Meeting. She would follow-up by email with any items needing attention and, if necessary, would either re-schedule or have other staff attend the October meeting.

Ms. Dufendach moved to adjourn the meeting and approval was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary T. Bohlen".

Mary T. Bohlen
Administrative Services Coordinator
Liaison to the Parks Commission



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Deborah Goeller, R.N., M.S.
Health Officer

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Monday, October 26, 2015

Contact: Travis Brown

Public Information Officer

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Fall Family Fun: Just Walk Berlin Adds Youth Activities

Berlin, MD- Berlin, the Coolest Small Town in America, is partnering with the Worcester County Health Department and Atlantic General Hospital to promote fun and fitness at the 4th Annual Just Walk Event, November 14th. This year's walk has expanded to include kids' activities and health screenings.

Registration begins at 9 am and the walk will begin at 9:30. Individuals can choose to participate in a 2-mile walk around Stephen Decatur park or they may enjoy a longer route that extends through downtown Berlin.

This year's Fun Walk will feature a kids' area with a bounce house and other activities. Free health screenings will be provided from 10 am-11:30 am by Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department. Vernon Powell will be on site to provide free shoe fittings. All walkers will be entered in to a drawing to win various door prizes including a FitBit.



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Deborah Goeller, R.N., M.S.
Health Officer

Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to pre-register, please call the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-0056. Registration can also be completed online by visiting worcesterhealth.org.



4th Annual

Just Walk, Berlin!

**2-mile Fun-Walk
New! Expanded
Route!**



**Friendly,
leashed dogs
welcome!**

**Strollers
Welcome!**

Stephen Decatur Park

November 14, 2015

(heavy rain cancels)

Registration starts at 9AM

Warm-Up: 9:30-9:45

Walk Starts: 9:45 AM

Moon Bounce

Health Screenings,

Exhibitors, & more!



Sponsored by the Worcester County Health Department
and the Town of Berlin Parks Commission.

To register visit www.worcesterhealth.org or call 410-632-0056

