

# Newbury Township Park Board

## Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018,

Newbury Town Hall

Present: Judy Barnhart, Mark Fritch, Wayne Mansfield, Jim Stephancin, Roger Mezak, Carol Draybak,

Guests: trustee Glen Quigley, Ann Tropf, Susan Arnold

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m., minutes of December meeting read and approved with minor correction.

### **Oberland Park.**

#### a. Conservation Easement:

Brett Rodstrom of WRLC sent an email 12/29 with attached map of proposed conservation easement with suggested allowances and restrictions. This is time sensitive as they want the field work done by mid-September. Discussion on location of 4-5 acre envelope for development for restroom/storage area and possible research station if OSU needs a location to research the sugar bush woods on the effects of climate change. Area should be near current drive, across from pavilion near power. Front field is not in the conservation easement to save for possible future development. Question was raised if reserved area can be split into two blocks or just one, such as on north end of easement to access stream... Glen inquired if the easement would allow the township to get possible future mitigation money. A motion was made to ask Brett if the township can keep the money, Wayne seconded. Carol will contact Bret Roger suggested a face to face meeting or a phone call rather than an email after this is determined can contact Ed Meyers on the specifics of the easement and present to the trustees. Ed will write the actual proposal.

#### b. Trash Receptacles:

Besides making a lid to allow for just recyclables, also need to restrict household garbage from being left in pavilion. Jim and Wayne have a design. Need to get a materials list together, Roger can get cost estimates. This would be a reimbursement payment rather than the township paying for the materials. Picnic tables also need stained. Suggestion was raised to see if the scouts are interested or do this project internally. Wayne will contact the scouts.

#### c. Soccer field drainage: drainage not really an issue according to Susan Arnold whose husband Fred runs the soccer program for the Rec board. In the past low areas have been filled in.

### **Veterans Park**

#### a. Nature works grant:

Glen sent paperwork in on the current year grant, waiting to hear. A Certificate of Authority from the county prosecutor stating township followed the guidelines of the grant.

#### b. Eagle Scout Flag Retirement Project:

The foundation is poured for the fire pit, waiting for the scouts to finish when the weather breaks. Rafe Proctor is the scout doing this project. Rafe met with landscape architects to make sure his project fit into the landscape design. Legion will handle the burning when enough flags are collected from their collection bin. Vets are a 501c3 organization and can handle the finances.

#### c. Park Benches:

Mark has a website of a company Belson Outdoor in Indiana who makes recycled benches. Need a credit application set up for payment. Come in 3 sizes 4, 6, 8. Plan calls for 6 benches. Website showed colors available, cedar with black legs were preferred. Come unassembled, Park board will put benches together. Question was raised if someone wanted to buy a bench, they would have to donate money to township then township purchase, Construction plan calls for paving trails, would be good to install at the same time. Paving will have to go out for bid. Ronyak has already given a price and may donate driveway paving. Carol will contact company to get pricing.

d. Flag of Honor for Louis Mezak.

Three flag poles are already committed: army, navy and U>S. Need to get National Guard and Marines

### **2018 Events Schedule**

- a. 41<sup>st</sup> OVI Re-enactors from last year have asked Carol twice if they can come out again to Veterans Park, currently working on their summer schedule. This is not a big expense for the township, just breakfast and lunch for the re-enactors and porta-potty rentals and possible sheriff for parking. They are asked not to display the confederate flag; it is a living history program not a battle. Would like to have infantry display this year. Jim volunteered to organize; Carol will contact Jake Leideman to get it started. Glen suggested June 2<sup>nd</sup> as it is trash clean up day and there is a lot of traffic around town.  
(Cake was located behind maintenance garage)
- b. Concert in the Park Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce contacted Glen about doing another concert most likely with “No Moss” again. Glen would like to do a taste of Newbury with it and hold it at Veterans Park. Parking would be available at both churches. Molly Gerber is asking for a date. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday in June or July suggested.
- c. Community Picnic: question was raised if we are doing a picnic again. Food cost about \$3-4000. Mark planning to hold another car show the last weekend in August.

### **Other**

Susan Arnold brought a list of suggestions for Oberland Park i.e. Open the park in winter for dog walkers, make a walking path around the perimeter of the recreational field for seniors who have a hard time walking in the woods with the uneven surface. Could use grinding as a surface material. Install poop bag holders to encourage visitors to pick up after their dogs so kids aren't sliding in their waste. Will review at next meeting.

Next regular meeting Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at town hall.

Judy Barnhart– Newbury Park Board Secretary

Newbury Township Park Board  
Submission: Susan Arnold, 13885 King Arthur Ct, Newbury  
Subject: Oberland Park/ Thoughts and Ideas for consideration

January 11, 2018

**Preface:**

I've personally used Oberland park as my second home for over 8 years for my children's recreational sports and more recently in the last 3 years as an exercise location for myself and dog. I've seen hundreds of people using these fields through the years from late March until early November mainly for Newbury Joint Rec Board sports. At any given time, there isn't room to even park and many use the overflow parking lot between the school buildings. This is absolutely a hotspot for our township during those 7-8 months (by the way, that is most of the year). We need to make it a comfortable place for our users and especially out of town guests we want to make an impression on, so they will return happily time and time again.

I've also talked with many people who must use the Rookery or Auburn Township park for their winter activities because ours is closed. This is extremely disheartening, and we are missing a grave opportunity by not keeping that small drive and parking lot open during winter months. It is a few passes with a snow plow to maintain that area for community members who aren't held back by snow. This isn't an overwhelming cost or burden for our township employees to bare when being paid to do all other plowing in our small township. I sincerely hope you will consider working with the township to keep this open in the few short winter months.

**Ideas for consideration**

**I. Paved or hard packed dirt/pea gravel walking path around entire parameter of fielded park**

Clearly benefits our aging population who need a level path for exercise and easy access location.	Promotes wellness and activity in our community for all ages in a SAFE environment.
Huge welcome to handicap people who are grossly limited in where they can enjoy a stroll outdoors.	Allows use of area even when soccer games and other activities are happening on the field- varied use simultaneously.

Additions: Mile markers headed both directions laid into the path flush for those tracking for health plan benefits; four to five sponsored park benches along the path; local businesses approached for sponsorship of a "one hundred yard segments" to install path and maintain (perhaps they give x\$ per year for their section to maintained); very minimal maintenance as mowers can be driven right over it; as a board enlist a school group (Eagle scout?) to rake and

lay down pea gravel once a year for maintenance (if starting with pea gravel); and connection of it to the existing wooded walking paths (this makes for a longer loop).

## II. Prefabricated park restroom

Clearly needed for the entire township. Every other attached township to Newbury has a location with public facilities.	Offers a SAFE and secure location for users and can be locked as needed.
Again, accommodates older population and handicap attendees to park and recreational activities.	Minimal upkeep costs after initial investment. Can be "Green Flush" and self sufficient with pumping and water occasionally needed.

Additions: Could be one stall and maintained through park board raised funds; again could have a school club or organization support and maintain facility. Many do not use pavilion currently due to lack of restroom facilities. Portable restrooms are not attractive to out of town visitors or even the elderly and handicapped. This is a 6-9 month project and should be moved forward on NOW to maximize its use and be seen as a community investment for ALL ages come spring. See restroom near Disk Golf at Punderson

### Conclusion:

Do we want to draw people into the community or keep them away?

Do we want to welcome increased use of this amazing property to enjoy the outdoors?

Do we want it useful to other residents if the school goes away?

(Fact: no school = no rec programming = no use of fields = must plan for future)

Do we want NEW people to come to the park because it's useful and has facilities?

Do we want visitors going back to their communities and telling them how great ours is?

Do we want to continue to promote exercise and health to our citizens and encourage them to get outdoors?

I know all projects require investment of time and monetary resources, but I feel with the large number of landscape/outdoor businesses in Newbury alone, with the right proposal and person to deliver it, donations would be found readily available. I would encourage additional grant research into building the restroom as well. Finally, I suggest visiting and speaking with board representatives for **Frohing Meadows Park on Savage Road in Chagrin Falls** and **Auburn Township Park on Auburn Road** (very new) as examples of the possibilities we can make happen in Newbury. We don't want to continue being "behind or second best" to all our neighboring communities. Additional topics: playground/skate park (no school =?)/mountain biking trails/dog poo poles with bags/fenced in dog park

**Thank you for the consideration. Susan Arnold [Sarnold6@roadrunner.com](mailto:Sarnold6@roadrunner.com) cell/text 440-213-5932**