

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 26, 2025, AT 6:00PM

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A Special Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 26, 2025, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride, Robert Lovenheim, and Michael Albert, Engineer Jon Tresslar, Engineer Missy Hutchison (via Zoom), Conservation & Recreation Director Alex Jackson, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka. Also present are Study Committee members Frances Oquendo, Ken LeSure, RJ Clark, Kyle Jenkins, and Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor Mike Dwyer and Parks & Recreation Manager Chris Rain.

Also present are Keith Dondey, Tim Freeman, Vicky Ozgun, Mike Reed, Frances Schryver, Doug Schryver, Lynn Schwarz, Tim Snow, Charlene Spezza, Joe Steinmetz, Tara Vecchio-Freeman, and Marguerite Vecchio.

1. **Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:03PM.**

2. **The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.**

3. **Old Business:**

a. **Presentation: Summary Findings, Key Person Interviews, Public Workshop Insights, Citizen Survey Results.**

Alex Jackson states this is a hybrid public meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the Study Committee (the “Group”). Missy Hutchison discusses key person interviews. The County forester noted there were no endangered species observed on the property, and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office advised against identifying the specific location of the archaeological dig site or disturbing the ground within it.

Missy Hutchison summarizes discussions from prior public meetings, which included expanding the bike park, adding a jump line, an ADA-accessible path, a kayak launch, restrooms, picnic areas, electric hookups, a dog park, parking improvements, expanding the disc golf course, preservation of the archaeological site, signage, and maintenance.

Missy Hutchison presents the summary findings from the survey, which had 244 respondents. The top-ranked requested amenities included drinking fountains/bathrooms, educational Lenape kiosks, a kayak/canoe launch, picnic tables/pavilions, an ADA-accessible loop, and playground equipment. Responses to open-ended questions are designated on the PowerPoint.

4. **New Business:**

a. **Presentations: Proposed Concepts.**

Missy Hutchison presents the concept plans. Concept Plan 1 demonstrates every amenity. This proposes the following improvements: increasing and paving the parking lot, ADA accessible trail with kiosks, a dog park, a playground, a splash pad, pickle ball courts, a pavilion, an open-air theater, flora and fauna educational kiosks, bird blinds, and benches.

Concept Plan 2 demonstrates the top eight amenities in the survey, which include bathrooms, a boat launch, pavilions and picnic tables, a loop trail, a playground, parking lot expansion, educational kiosks, and bird blinds.

Concept Plan 3 demonstrates amenities that were discussed in meetings, which includes a boat, playground, bathrooms, bike park expansion, disc golf course expansion, a loop trail, educational kiosks, and bird blinds. Mike Reed explains the history of revamping the disc golf course. Doug Schryver asks about disc golf. Mike Dwyer confirms the committee agreed to expand the disc golf course.

Concept Plan 4 demonstrates a simplified map, with disc golf, a playground, and pavilions. There are no amenities proposed along the walking path.

The Group discusses using Concept Plan 3 as the base plan. Tim Freeman expresses concern about a paved pump track heaving in the winter. Michael Albert wants to understand annual costs of upkeep for a pump track. He discusses his preferences for the park. The Group discusses changing the layout of the parking lot to aid with fee collections for out-of-county residents and removing the additional pump track and replacing it with a dog park. Missy Hutchison confirms the final plan will have a cost analysis and phases. The Group confirms that there will not be a kayak launch, nor a gazebo overlooking the river.

Tara Vecchio-Freeman states a dog park was attempted once but abandoned for liability reasons. She would like an area for small children to use the pump track and does not want sport courts because the area floods. She has concerns with individuals trespassing on private property and does not want educational kiosks near private property. Marguerite Vecchio expresses concerns about fences in floodplains.

Marguerite Vecchio states the Township is disrupting the residents that live near the park; there is no control of open space, out-of-staters use the private road, and she needs to wait for the state police to show up. She wants space and a buffer from their property.

Tim Freeman states there are many dead ash trees in the park. Joe Steinmetz states he walked the property to consider expanding the disc golf and presents a concept map for additional holes. There are several trees that have purple paint, which demonstrate a safety zone for hunting and not to trespass. There are a lot of dead trees and briars in the area. RJ Clark states the focus has been removing dead trees near the walking path and suggests cultivating roses and other natural barriers between the Township property and Prices Landing residents to assist in keeping people off private property.

Tara Vecchio-Freeman states wild animals will be impacted by additional people in the parks. Mike Dwyer suggests no permanent structures within 200 ft of private property on Prices Landing Rd.

The Group breaks into multiple discussions and comes to the following consensus: they like the concept of creating a 200-ft buffer from the Prices Landing property owners and abandoning the walking trail closest to the private houses; there will be no splash pad or amphitheater; parking will be reconfigured to create a staging zone for cars.

**b. Discuss: Development of Preferred Final Concept.**

Missy Hutchison will compile the ideas discussed, using Concept Plan 3 as the base plan. The following changes will be made to the base plan: reconfigure parking and potentially the entrance, remove the bike track expansion, remove the boat launch, remove the path to the river, keep the loop ADA trail, add a playground northeast of the parking lot, add a dog park to the east of the existing pump track, expand the disc golf course by nine holes, and add a 200-ft buffer from the private properties on Prices Landing Rd.

Michael Albert likes significant landscaping along the trails to encourage users to stay on the official trail. RJ Clark cautions more dead ash trees will need to be removed. Tara Vecchio-Freeman and Marguerite Vecchio discuss the topography of the area.

**c. Discuss: Next Steps for Master Site Development Plan.**

Missy Hutchison will reach out when she is prepared to move forward.


**5. Public Comment: None.**

**6. Adjournment:** There being no other business before the Board, Jacob Pride motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.

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Minutes Recorded by Alex Jackson and Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Julia Heilakka  
Township Secretary