SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, AT 6:00PM

A Special Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 17, 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 (via Zoom), and Michael Albert; Engineer Missy Hutchison, Conservation & Recreation Director Dr. Alex Jackson, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka. Also present are River's Edge Bike Park Study Committee members: Kyle Jenkins (Pocono Area Cycling Trails), Frances Oquendo, RJ Clark, Middle Smithfield Township Supervisor Mike Dwyer, and Middle Smithfield Township Parks & Recreation Manager Chris Rain. Ken LeSure is not present.

Also present are Elisa Byrne, Chris Clark, Sean Collins, Michelle Conti, Oliver Conti, Kasper Murat (via Zoom), Zak Klaptosky, Vicky Ozgun, Efe Ozgun, Shawn Rogers, Charlene Spezza, Marguerite Vecchio, Tara Vecchio Freeman, Joseph Villacorta, Ty Wallace, and other members of the public.

1. **Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

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

3. **Presentation on River's Edge Master Site Plan.** Missy Hutchison summarizes the narrative report, which discusses meetings for the project, a citizen survey, key person interviews and results, concept plans, demographics, an archaeological site, comprehensive plans, existing amenities, NPDES permitting, environmental studies, operation and maintenance costs, and a security analysis.

   Missy Hutchison discusses that the final plan is a revision of Concept 3. The final plan adds fencing, a security booth, an overlook, expands disc golf, and removes the kayak launch. The playground shifted closer to the parking lot, and she added an overlay at the dog park for a possible expansion of the pump track. A 200ft buffer remains on the eastern side of the property, and the playground cost estimate remains correct based on additional research.

   Kyle Jenkins presents options for a revised pump track that adds features like tabletops, hips, and doubles. Missy Hutchison confirms construction for the track would be bid out, but the architect who designs the track is considered a professional service. Zak Klaptosky states he is one of the best track builders in the world and would like to bid on the project. Jacob Pride replies construction is years out, but bids are posted on PennBid.

   Vicky Ozgun asks about the total cost of the master plan. Michael Albert replies it depends on what options for development are pursued, since there are options for amenities that would occupy the same space. The Township needs the master site plan to pursue DCNR grants. Julia Heilakka explains LSA grants are used as match for DCNR grants.

RJ Clark discusses a boat launch for future consideration, breakaway fencing, and that people routinely ignore signage. Michael Albert states that if the Township ever decided to build a boat launch, he'd prefer that amenity at Minisink Park.

4. **New Business:**

   a. **Discuss: Next Steps.** The final plan and narrative will be sent to DCNR for review and comments and then returned to the Board for consideration.

5. **Public Comments:**

   a. Marguerite Vecchio states she filed a lawsuit against the Township and feels her suit should have stopped this meeting. Jacob Pride states the Township will not comment on open litigation. Vicky Ozgun states the project should be frozen because of the litigation. Eilene Lapping states she lives on Prices Landing and owns property on the map.

   b. Michael Albert states the land belongs to the Township, and Prices Landing residents have easements to reach their properties. Eilene Lapping states she never received a letter about anyone buying the road.

   c. Marguerite Vecchio states people will go across Prices Landing, and the Township is responsible if she hits someone with her car. Eilene Lapping states a property owner told her she was not allowed to use Binnekill Ln. Michael Albert states there is no desire to make Prices Landing Rd an access point, the map demonstrates pedestrian crossings only. Charlene Spezza asks who plows and maintains the road. Michael Albert replies the Township does not maintain the road, which is standard in an easement.

   d. Joseph Villacorta of the Pocono Disc Golf Club states the park is a less impactful use than other options. He wants to improve the park by working with residents and doesn't want the space to go to waste. Tara Vecchio Freeman states she has had many conversations with Mike Reed, appreciates that the frisbee golf is maintained, and confirms her fight is not with disc golf.

   e. Michael Albert states the only thing proposed north of Prices Landing Rd is disc golf and trails. RJ Clark states he's been handling the takedown of dead trees. Joseph Villacorta states the expanded course uses the path of least resistance to preserve the space.

   f. Ty Wallace of Jim Thorpe works at a motorcycle shop, supports Back 9, and states there is no place in the area to ride. The track would benefit local businesses.

   g. Michelle Conti is the mother of Oliver, who has a developmental disorder. She states Back 9 is beneficial for local business, and Zak and Elisa took her son under their wing. She wants the facility open. Vicky Ozgun states that Oliver was nonverbal but started talking. Vicky Ozgun states closing the track is an ADA violation.

h. Zak Klaptosky of 109 Clubhouse Ct states he was told he's not allowed to come to meetings and feels harassment charges have been pressed needlessly. He calls Robert Lovenheim a weasel, and speaks negatively of the Township and its employees.

i. Kasper Murat of Leisure Lands states he was hit by a car riding a bike in his community when he was 15. He speaks in support of Back 9 and has learned how to fix dirt bikes.

j. RJ Clark states passionate and heated speech is protected.

k. Elisa Byrne states the Mountain Manor case is relevant to the River's Edge meeting, and states a constable put his hand on his gun when talking to her. She states she does not come here to start arguments and wants to find a resolution. She will post emails from Ron Karasek on social media and will be interviewed by USA Today. She states she has been called bad names in the meeting room.

l. Zak Kaltopsky reads an email from Ron Karasek, dated Friday September 12th. Zak Klaptosky states he is not spreading any misinformation.

m. Elisa Byrne states she belongs here and has a right to speak. She knows her rights, is a productive member of society, and feels the law is on her side. She states Back 9 is not harassing the Township, she wants to negotiate, and will attend the next Board meeting.

n. Shawn Rogers of 710 Pond Ln supports Back 9 and feels people in the room are arrogant.

o. Chris Clark of 105 Clubhouse Ct lives at Mountain Manor, supports Back 9, and thinks the track is beneficial for the area.

p. Vicky Ozgun states the property asked for a zoning change before, the track is allowed, and discusses a group of people who opposed the zoning change.

6. **Adjournment:** There being no other business before the Board, Jacob Pride motions to adjourn, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

Minutes Recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Heilakka
Township Secretary