**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD APRIL 13, 2020**

PRESENT: Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Jay Troutman, Jim Pashek, Susan Crookston, Carrie Casey Leemhuis, Liz Nelson, Mike Schiller, Jessica DeMoise Members; Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Alex Scott, Mayor; Dempsey Bruce, PWD Superintendent; Shawn Peterson, Administrative Assistant; Dottie Nielson, Emerita.

ALSO PRESENT: Betsy Monroe, Mandy Steele, Fredrick Leech, Thomas Karet, Andy Bennett and Steve & Abagael Whittingham

ABSENT: Lois Folino, Member.

Mr. Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM via Zoom Conference call due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The minutes of December 9, 2019, meeting were unanimously approved.

* Pashek + MTR will give a full update on the Hardie Master Plan at the 10:00 AM Hardie Property MSDP Study Committee meeting today.
* Liz Nelson gave an update on the Welcome Garden Project at the entrance to the Borough along Fox Chapel Road. The goal is to reintroduce a flood plain forest by planting at least three Sycamore trees this spring to determine their viability for a future Sycamore grove in this location.
* Steve and Abbie Whittingham joined the Park Commission to give an update on Annie’s Field Project at McCahill Park. The park equipment is temporarily stored at a Kompan facility and will eventually be stored at the Borough building until work on the park begins. The final park drawing will be shared with Gary when available. A sign will be placed alerting the residents of the upcoming improvements.
* The DCNR grant for the Hardie property purchase was submitted in March. An Implementation Grant will be submitted next year at this time. Jim Pashek reported that the DCNR grant for McCahill Park is on target to be submitted by April 20, 2020. He will send the grant information to the Park Commission once submitted.
* During the park steward report, Dempsey stated that a mini excavator was delivered today for repair work along Old Squaw Trail. Public Works will also address safety issues including placing rails along the trail bridge. Carrie Casey Leemhuis will be the park steward for this trail from Beechwood Farms to the Hardie property. Jessica Demoise will join Dottie and Nancy as a steward for the Trillium Trail. Dempsey also reported that a fallen large tree destroyed the lower bridge caused by the eroding streambank and a solution to continue the loop trail will need to be developed. Michael Schiller will become the new park steward for the Hardie property’s high and low loops.
* The next regular meeting is June 8, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.