

**West Manchester Township
Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

Members Present: Jenn Bennett, Tom Wolfgang, Lisa Krout
Delegates Present: Zach Kern, Debbie Manning
School Board Liaison: Shawn Harlacker
Shiloh Lions Representative: Denise Draais
Parks & Rec Staff: Kelsey Paul, Connor Gerrick
Guests: Tracy Strickland, HRG Engineering
Alesa Joseph, 2585 Slate Hill Rd., York, PA 17408 (Resident)
Judy Givens, 2595 Slate Hill Rd., York, PA 17408 (Resident)

The meeting was called to order by Jenn at 6:00 at the West Manchester Township Building.

The meeting began with the presentation of **Little Conewago Creek Conservation Area (Master Site Plan)**. This was open to public comments. Tracy Strickland from HRG explained the ideas and drawings this firm developed. A survey was sent out to all WMT residents and closed on 3/25/26. There were 110 responses. Alesa Joseph and Judy Givens were present on this topic. Their homes are on Slate Hill Road. Possible ideas and drawings were shown to all in attendance. Ideas were: improve parking, vehicle turn-about circle, quiet nature oriented, ADA compliant trail, 6-8-foot-wide trails, air pavilion, benches on pathway, view bird boxes, turf to meadow lawn, flowers for ground nesting habitat, self-guided tour to learn about animals, birds, etc., rain garden, season archery at top buffer for hunting and non-hunting, some trees at meadow, bike rack, and garbage containers.

Flooding was the main concern of the residents. Their properties and the Little Conewago Creek flood often. Tracy mentioned that the pathways and parking areas are not hard surface materials like roads are. It is more like super crusher stone that will be laid.

Chimney Swift Tower was installed a few days prior to this meeting.

Both ladies have been dealing with WMT about the flooding issues for years.

Dover Township's Stormwater Project has written grants for their section that abuts the Little Conewago Creek area for WMT. Their project could take a couple of years to complete.

Approval of the Minutes:

Kelsey pulled up the minutes on the screen. She will email them out to the group. Tom Wolfgang made a motion to approve February 18, 2026, minutes. Jenn Bennett offered a second to the motion.

Unfinished Business:

Reports:

- A. **School Board Liaison's Report** – Shawn Harlacker has been on the WY School Board for 5 years and he is a coach for Parks & Recreation Softball.

The Field Project began at the High School with the all-purpose field. Field Hockey and Soccer should occur on this field in the fall. Softball will be moved in front of the Middle School for next year. Next spring the football field will begin. The Middle School traffic circle will be added and additional parking at the MS this summer. Additional parking will be created on Adams Street too.

Shawn expressed a "thank you" to WMT for the use of Derry Park for the WYHS Girl's Softball team. WMT did receive a few calls/concerns from the residents about the extra traffic.

Shawn mentioned that First Responders Night for the Softball Team will be held on 4/24/26.

B. New Business:

1. Capital Projects:

- Little Conewago Creek Conservation Area – MASTER SITE PLAN – read above info.

2. Upcoming Events:

- NEW Easter Egg Hunt – 4/6/-4/30/26 via social media – was crazy on social media mostly with adults.
- Take Me Fishing – York Area Recreation Director’s Event on 6/5/26 at Pinchot Park – Host with Fish & Game
- NEW Summer Sounds & Screens – (Live music & movie night) – 6/18/26, 7/9/26, 8/13/26 (6:30-8:30) Movie begins at dark. Food trucks.
- Red, White & Blue Kid’s Parade – 7/1/26 at Loman Park at 6:00.
- Olde Tyme Carnival – 7/14/26 at Sunset Lane Park (Rain Date 7/15/26) at Sunset Lane Park

3. Spring Programming:

- Opened 3/1/26 and underway
- NEW Programs: Zumba Adults (12 enrollees), Pilates (10 enrollees), Chair Yoga (9 enrollees), Cooking Workshops with Penn State Cooperative Extension (5/20), Family Architecture Night (4/25, 2 families), Storytime in the Park, Community Walk & Talk (4/16 at 10:00 at Shetter Park), Intro to Stained Glass 4/25, 8 enrollees), Gentle Yoga, NEW Sports League – Sand Volleyball – this summer)

4. Staffing:

- All paid staff/CIT’s are hired for Summer Playground. Applications were accepted January 1st through March 1, 2026. All staff returned and 2 new hires. Dropped CIT’s from 14 to 10 at Loman Park & Sunset Lane. Five at Bennet Williams.

5. Sports Leagues:

- WMT Girl’s Softball league started practicing, games start in May
- Tee-Ball league will begin May – 4 teams (@ additional since last year) – 35 kids this year

6. Projects:

- On 3/19/26, bluebird boxes were installed at the following parks: Sunset Lane, Dunedin, and Little Conewago Creek. These will be considered national Bluebird trails from The Bluebird Society of PA. They were provided with a grant from the Bluebird Society of PA. These trails will address habitat loss, protect eastern bluebirds from competition, boost local populations, benefit other native cavity nesters, provide educational and stewardship value, and support ecosystem health.
- Chimney Swift Tower was installed with educational signage at Little Conewago Creek Conservation Area.
- New Pavilion install at Bennet Williams Park – End of July should be completed – low ADA path and Sand box for kids.
- Playground surfacing revitalizer – will be done ASAP. Lori and Kristi bought this treatment for WMT staff to complete in-house.
- Converting the horseshoe pits at Sunset Lane Park to cornhole – Calling Sherry at School District – Shuffleboard or Bocce are other ideas
- Installing additional cameras at Sunset Lane Park & installing cameras at Loman & Dunedin Parks (Electricity would be needed at Dunedin) – no update with Met-Ed

C. OLD BUSINESS

- Kelsey and Connor attended PRPS Annual Conference & Expo on 3/24-27/26 at Spooky Nook
- Gift Card/Cash Bingo was held 3/29/26 – 177 attendees – Thank you to Jenn, Lisa and all who donated Items and time.

- Earth Day, Sustainability, and Shredding Event was held 4/11/26 – 20 vendors, shredding truck, Goodwill donation (filled 5 large toter trucks), great weather. Tom did a Toilet Paper Roll craft with Birdseed, Craft Vendor contacts.

Open Floor Discussion:

- A. Lisa asked about holding an Easter Egg Hunt. Loman Park residents did it many years ago. Kelsey said it is an idea to think about. Lisa mentioned other groups could help fill eggs.
- B. Next RAC Meeting – Wednesday, June 17th, August 19th, October 21st, and December 12th at 6:00.
- C. Next BOS Meeting – Thursday, April 23rd at 7:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM was made by Tom and seconded by Jenn.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Krout, Secretary