

**East Vincent Township
Park & Recreation Meeting
February 24, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Brian Wilde opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Also in attendance were Chris Cobb, Doug Schmidt, Cynthia Barney, Todd Palmer, Christine McNeil, and Tim Obara.

1. Meeting minutes from January 27, 2026, were read and approved as amended.

Moved: T. Obara

Second: C. Barney

Vote: Unanimous

2. Guest Discussion - John Hosbach, Township Arborist

The township arborist was unable to attend and will be able to attend in March.

3. Old Business

A. Open Issue List

	Issues (Independence Park)	Updates
1a	Building Demolished Costs - Potential state reimbursement.	The buildings have been demolished. The funding replacement to cover the cost of the demolition is on hold.
3	Project Schedule - Independence Park (2026)	A scheduled status meeting was held on February 24, 2026. The project is on schedule.
4	Wayfinding Sign - Bridge and Pennhurst - Solar	B. Zienkowski is working with the SE Veterans Center on when the old wayfinding sign can be removed.
7	EMS Friendship ambulance building project. Separate building for restroom.	The construction of the EMS building should be starting in the spring of this year to include the restroom building.
8	SEVC residents “Discover Independence Park” (SEVC day)	The “Discover Independence Park” should not be scheduled until the landscaping has been completed and should be coordinated to the park opening day.
9	Official Soft Opening of Independence Park 2026	The date for the official opening has yet to be affirmed.

10	Fencing Grant	The sports field fencing was discussed at the construction status meeting. It was suggested that netting be used instead. This could be placed on a berm that surrounds the street side of the field suitable for spectator seating.
11	Vincent Canal / Girard Canal interpretive sign	An historical photo of the canal was provided in the packet.
12	Mini Replica Covered Bridge	A virtual meeting has been scheduled for March 4th, 2026, to discuss moving forward with the mini bridge.
13	Wooden steps for inclines	A plan is required to move forward on steps on the Indy Trail.
15	Independence sign / transformer	The noted transformer should be moved.
G1	Grant - PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)	C. McNeil reported that the meeting went well. There are several priorities and needs that grants are needed to cover funding.
G7	Sheeder Woodlands grant closing	B. Zienkowski will be working the grant closing.

	Issues (Park on the Ridge)	Updates
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16	Prioritize Park on the Ridge projects	#16 – The items listed in #17 to #22 are the priorities in order as listed.
23	Food Forest Funding	#23 – K. Muth may have funding available for the food forest. The township has provided \$1,000 for the food forest. It will be managed through Public Works. People’s Park

	Issue (Peoples Park)	Updates
25	Landowner boundary encroachment on Peoples Park	This issue is still being worked. B.Wilde stated that Rick Tralies isn’t available to work on the trail design. Both C. McNeil and T. Palmer requested that a special meeting be held to iron out the continuous oscillation of this project. There is a \$500,000 set aside in the 2026 OS Budget. An all-hands meeting is required to settle the issues holding up the project. B. Wilde objected to holding a full P&R meeting.

B. Independence Park

These topics were covered during the open issues discussion.

- a. Park Construction
- b. Park Entrance Sign
- c. Grants Subcommittee

C. Park on the Ridge

- a. Food Forest - covered during the open issues discussion.

C. McNeil commented that the improvements visioned for the park are eligible for State DCNR 50% matching under the “Rehabilitation Category.”

D. Peoples Park – covered during the open issues discussion.

E. Sheeder Woodlands Park – covered during the open issues discussion.

F. Parkerford Historic Riverfront Park

C. McNeil noted that a Park Historical Interpretive Plan Scope of Services Contract is in place from 11/2024. This contract outlines the development of a landscape-based interpretive park plan, including an outdoor design with walking trails interwoven with gathering spaces story boards and interpretive features. The plan also emphasizes visitor connections to the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) and adjacent County and East Coventry lands, helping to create a cohesive Riverfront Park experience. In coordination with the Historic Architect, the Tavern's outdoor amenities such as the two-story cold cellar, and interpretive themes will be thoughtfully designed to align with the overall landscape plan and reinforce educating the public to the site's historical/architectural significance.

4. New Business

The township is planning an appreciation dinner for township volunteers.

Volunteers are needed for the "1st Annual East Egg Hunt" to be held at the Park on the Ridge on March 28th, 2026, at 10:00 AM until Noon.

B. Wilde commented on happenings at the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Discussion is beginning on long-term planning for a Trust-owned parcel on Pughtown Road in East Vincent Township, including potential future public access and restoration opportunities.

A comment was provided by one of the trail stewards that "easy/hard" signs should be added to the trail intersections that were created for the last Rugged Indy race. T. Palmer stated that he would address the signs.

E. Milito of the EAC commented on the reforestation project within Independence Park. Before any project work is started the invasive plants within the project area must be removed.

E. Milito and C. McNeil discussed that the Park on the Ridge has only until recently be viewed as a Recreational Facility. With the introduction of the EAC new insights and initiatives have revealed that the Park is also a Natural Resource and contains a 1 st order stream to the High-Quality French Creek. Elaine and Chris M. support enlarging the perspective on the park to include Natural Resources into the planning for park improvements. E. Milito agreed to come to the March meeting with the EAC vision for the park. She also wants a natural trail to be developed along the creek along with environmental educational signage.

5. Miscellaneous Discussion

None.

6. Public Comment

A township resident noted that the unnamed tributary in Independence Park had been named “Farmer’s Run” by a previous Park & recreation board. An investigation into past Park & Recreation meeting minutes should be completed to verify this.

7. Note from the Chairperson

- **Independence Park - Indy Trail Woodlands Management Plan:** Township arborist John Hosbach will be our guest speaker. His report, *Woodland Restoration, Invasive Species Management and Reforestation Implementation Plan*, is included in a separate packet below. It is comprehensive and detailed. Board members are encouraged to review the report in advance.
- **Independence Park Construction:** Site preparation and demolition are complete including the Clinic and Woodworking Shop. Earthwork and grading (including storm pipe installation) continue. Meco’s Sean Ebert is updating the project construction schedule now that the gazebo roof color has been selected and the gazebo can be ordered. QCi, reporting directly to B. Zienkowski, continues to issue daily field updates. Marc Morfei (Pennoni PM) provides meeting notes following each biweekly project meeting attended by Pennoni, Meco, QCi, EVT Staff, Public Works, and P&R Chair. The most recent notes are included in the meeting packet.
- **Grant Subcommittee:** The grants subcommittee (C. McNeil and T. Obara) met with Pennoni on February 18. A key item discussed was the need to close out the Sheeder Woodlands grant in order to proceed with Chester County funding.
- **Park on the Ridge:** Funding is available for improvements. The Park and Rec Board will need to prioritize projects and develop cost estimates, with Pennoni assisting as needed.
- **PRPS Conference & Expo – March 24–27, 2026 (Manheim, PA):** I registered using the “pay later” option so the Township can handle payment directly. If other Board members are interested, registration is available on the [PRPS website](#).
- **Webinar - Maintaining Water Quality: What Townships Need to Know. (2/25/26)** Virtual. Contact B. Zienkowski if interested. For additional information see PSATS webinars.

8. Adjourn

Moved: C. McNeil

Second: C. Cobb

Vote: Unanimous