

Conewago Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

2006 Annual Report

It has been a busy and eventful first year for the Conewago Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Working as a team we have applied for a DCED grant, put together a newsletter, started the land acquisition process, met with groups from surrounding municipalities and most importantly have molded together into a cohesive team.

Our first mission of the Parks and Recreation board was to update our by-laws, set goals and objectives, and elect board positions within our group. We have had our revised by-laws approved by the board of supervisors and elected positions within our board. With feedback from our board members and the board of supervisors we are constantly tracking our progress and re-evaluating our goals and objectives

The township was approached by State Representative John Payne with an opportunity for a \$5000.00 grant to be used for Parks and Recreation within the township. With little notice the group worked together to come up with a project, develop a budget, and apply for the grant. A picnic area located on the grounds adjacent to the township building including benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and a grill was the project we thought would be most suitable at this time. The official award period is not until late 2007, but with the very strong feedback we have been given, it seems likely our grant will be approved.

As the year progressed one idea we strongly supported was the release of a newsletter. At the request of the board of supervisors it was decided that the newsletter would include articles from other boards within the township. Articles were gathered and assembled by the Parks and Recreation board and in January the newsletter was released. It was met with strong support and encouraging comments from residents. A second newsletter is scheduled to be printed this summer.

The ultimate goal of our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is to acquire land and create our own township park. Throughout the year we have met with the Hershey Trust Company and Lower Dauphin School District, property owners adjacent to the township building, a desired location. We met with a representative from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to advise us how to fill out a proper grant application and the necessary steps in the process. An appraisal was performed on the land we wish to acquire, a necessary step in the acquisition process. We have learned a lot from the process and hope that our efforts will eventually lead to a large centrally located park being created within the township.

As Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board I am very pleased with our progress in our first year. As a committed and dedicated group of concerned citizens I think great things will come from this group in years to follow. I would like to use this annual report to thank the rest of the park and recreation board members for the hard

work they have put into accomplishing our goals and creating a community with more recreation opportunities for the residents of Conewago Township.

Sincerely,

Jason Parmer
Chairman, Conewago Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.