



PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 5:30 PM

1. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2022
2. Berlin Glow Walk – November 4, 2022
3. Just Walk Worcester Upcoming Event/Activity Dates
 - a) December 5-17, 2022, 8 AM – 8 PM: 12 Days of Just Walk & Wellness
 - b) February 18-19, 2023, 8 AM – 8 PM: Go Red Walk Scavenger Hunt
4. Stephen Decatur Park Comfort Station project update
5. Other

Upcoming Meeting/Event Schedule:

Friday, November 4, 2022, 5:30 PM – Fall Glow Walk

Tuesday, November 7, 2022 – Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 (change to 2nd Tuesday) - Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 - Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - Meeting

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9:00 AM – Spring Walk

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 (change due to July 4 holiday) - Meeting

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 – National Night Out

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - Meeting

Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:30 PM – Fall Glow Walk

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – Meeting

**Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD 21811
2nd Floor Conference Room
410-641-4314 for more information**

BERLIN PARKS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2022

Commission Members Present: Chair Mike Wiley, Patricia Dufendach, Sarah Hooper, Bruce Hyder, and Laura Stearns

Absent: none

Town Officials/Staff Present: Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, Public Works Director Jimmy Charles

Others Present: Councilmembers Jay Knerr, Shaneka Nichols, and Jack Orris (attending as audience members, not as an official representation of the Mayor and Council), Tony Weeg and Adrian Bowen of We Heart Berlin

The meeting of the Parks Commission for Tuesday, September 6, 2022 was held onsite at Dr. William Henry Park and was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Ms. Dufendach moved to approve the Minutes of the July 5, 2022 Meeting. Mr. Hyder seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen brought the Commission members' attention to the Berlin Youth Program update report included in the Meeting packet and the report was briefly discussed.

Discussion regarding the potential skate park followed. Ms. Dufendach noted that she had gone to look at the Salisbury skate park and noted that the smaller size of that facility seemed to make it easier to maintain and to mitigate stormwater concerns. Discussion followed regarding ongoing maintenance, development costs and stormwater for the Salisbury facility. Discussion regarding a recent website link Mr. Weeg had sent regarding determining a skate park location and Mr. Hyder reviewed a number of points indicated on the site. Ms. Stearns and Ms. Hooper noted the importance of certain considerations in planning for a skate park, including surveying the neighborhood surrounding a potential location, ensuring emergency vehicle access and stormwater mitigation.

Ms. Dufendach indicated that she believed that Heron Park would still be a preferable location, but that the potential sale of the front lots would impact the possible locations at that park. Ms. Bohlen noted that Worcester County Recreation had indicated the possibility of considering locating a skate park at or near the athletic fields off Rt. 113, but that such discussion would not be viable for some time.

Mr. Weeg discussed ongoing meetings that We Heart Berlin was having with skate park companies to consider hiring for the location determination and design, and which would include features such as geological survey, community surveys, stormwater consideration and more.

Lengthy discussion followed with the Parks Commission, We Heart Berlin members and general audience members with topics such as ideal locations at Heron Park and whether there would be space if only the lagoon lot remained in the Town's ownership. Discussion about the neighboring communities' parks and the concerns that the Parks Commission had expressed regarding due diligence also followed.

Mr. James Parrigin, who had been extensively involved with the Salisbury park spoke to the issues that had been encountered with the development of that park. Discussion regarding the potential for utilizing money available through the Tony Hawk Foundation followed; Ms. Dufendach noted that previous research into that source had indicated that their stipulations, such as 24-hour access, would not seem to indicate a fit for Berlin.

It was noted that many communities found that skate parks were self-policing, and that constant official presence was not required.

Ms. Nichols noted that surveying of the immediate neighborhood, regardless of location, was vital and Mr. Parrigin noted that one of the neighbors of the Salisbury Park had initially opposed the facility but was now an active presence. He also reminded all present that those who are interested in the sorts of recreation offered at a skate park were going to skate, bike, scooter, etc. regardless; by offering an approved venue, the incidents of unauthorized activity would naturally decrease.

Ms. Stearns noted that the Parks Commission supported having a skate park and was interested in actively pursuing the project but needed due diligence to determine the appropriate location. Discussion of the various potential locations followed. It was noted that Decatur Park was low-lying, and often wet followed rain/snow events and that Heron Park was an open question until the potential sale of the front lots was settled. Henry Park had the space to accommodate a skate park and a practice field (for which an interest had been expressed).

Mr. Weeg noted that they hoped to engage a consultant soon to begin the survey/design work. Ms. Dufendach cautioned them to not proceed to far down one path without surveying the neighbors. Mr. Bowen indicated that he believed the neighborhood around Henry Park was amenable to the idea; Ms. Nichols emphasized that the direct neighbors must be spoken to.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding a skate park vs. a pump track and Mr. Weeg noted that the complete park concept could be phased in over time. Discussion regarding what activities were suitable followed; Mr. Weeg indicated that skateboards, bikes, scooters, skates and even wheelchairs would find the park highly useful for recreation. Additional discussion regarding the types of features and emphasis on community surveys followed.

Ms. Bohlen noted that the Town had not budgeted funds for consultant work or construction but was hoping to apply for grant funds; Mr. Weeg indicated that We Hear Berlin will engage and fully fund the survey/consultant work and that the intent was to fully fund the entire project. Ms. Marie Velong indicated her opinion that the "street" features should be part of the first phase of development. Mr. Orris reiterated the importance of stormwater mitigation. Mr. Weeg indicated that he would return to the Parks Commission with further information later.

Mr. Bowen and Mr. Weeg addressed the Parks Commission regarding their request to hold Love Day on Sunday, September 25, 2022 in Henry Park. Ms. Bohlen reminded all that We Heart Berlin had previously stated that Love Day would not be held this year and that Town resources were already committed to the Fiddler's Convention that weekend. She noted that Town Code required application for Park events 60-days in advance to allow Town resources to be adequately planned. Mr. Charles indicated that Public Works was spread thin because of Fiddlers. Ms. Hooper asked if other dates were considered. Mr. Bowen indicated that there were not really any town services

needed. Mr. Hyder indicated that he was in favor of the event, but that there was insufficient notice to the Town. Followed continued discussion, Ms. Dufendach moved to support recommendation for approval to the Mayor and Council, Mr. Hyder seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen reviewed upcoming Just Walk Worcester events, including the Berlin Glow Walk scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2022. She indicated that she would follow-up with a time for the event.

Ms. Stearns asked Ms. Bohlen if she would continue as Parks Commission Liaison in light of her new position as Town Administrator and Ms. Bohlen indicated that she did not know at this time.

Discussion regarding a magnolia tree which had been planted in memoriam for Steve Falck and a memorial for the town chicken followed.

Ms. Dufendach noted that there were several trees in Decatur Park which needed attention and possibly removal.

Ms. Hooper moved to adjourn; Ms. Dufendach seconded, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary T. Bohlen
Town Administrator
Liaison to the Parks Commission



Worcester County

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 249 • Snow Hill, Maryland 21863-0249
www.worcesterhealth.org

Snow Hill (Main Office)
410-632-1100
Fax 410-632-0906

Rebecca L. Jones, RN, BSN, MSN
Health Officer

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Summer Widmyer
410.632.1100 ext. 1058
summer.widmyer@maryland.gov

Worcester Health Announces 2022-23 Just Walk Fun Walks

*Visit one of our local parks and take a walk with your
family, friends, and neighbors*

Looking for ways to get active and explore the parks in Worcester County? Join the Worcester County Health Department for seven *Just Walk Fun Walks* in 2021-2022. The next round of free, walking events begins in October and continues through the Spring of 2022.

Upcoming walks:

- **October 5, 2022**

Walk Maryland Day & Scavenger Hunt, 8am-5pm

- Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St, Pocomoke, MD
- Byrd Park, 400 Dighton Ave, Snow Hill, MD
- Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli St, Berlin, MD

- **November 4, 2022**

Berlin Fall Glow Walk, 5:30pm

Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli St, Berlin, MD

- **December 5-17, 2022**

12 Days of Just Walk, (self-directed) 8am-5pm

- Newtown Park, 2001 Groton Road, Pocomoke, MD
- Byrd Park, 400 Dighton Ave, Snow Hill, MD

C4CS 410-742-3460 • **Core Service Agency** 410-632-3366 • **Isle of Wight Environmental Health** 410-352-3234 / 410-641-9559
Pocomoke 410-957-2005 • **Berlin** 410-629-0164 • **Dental Center** 410-641-0240 • **Prevention** 410-632-0056
WACS Center 410-213-0202 • **TTY-Maryland Relay Service** 1-800-735-2258



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Health Officer

- Herring Creek Nature Park, 12500 Nature Park Dr, Ocean City, MD
- **January 1, 2023**
First Day Walk & Hike Scavenger Hunt (self-directed) 8am-5pm
 - Assateague State Park-Rackliffe Trail, 6915 Stephen Decatur Hwy, Berlin, MD
- **February 18-19, 2023**
Go Red Scavenger Hunt, (self-directed) 8am-5pm
 - Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St, Pocomoke, MD
 - Byrd Park, 400 Dighton Ave, Snow Hill, MD
 - Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli St, Berlin, MD
- **April 8, 2023**
Tortoise & Hare Dare, 9am
 - Shad Landing, 3461 Worcester Hwy, Snow Hill, MD
- **May 6, 2023**
Berlin Spring Walk, 9am
 - Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli St, Berlin, MD

Need a goal? Join *Just Walk Worcester*, our incentivized walking program. *Just Walk* is a free, self-directed, self-reported physical activity program that rewards participants for miles or minutes of activity they complete. It is easy to join. Simply visit JustWalkWorcester.org and click on the “Join” button, complete the registration information, and start being active. Track your steps, miles or minutes of activity and then when you are ready, submit your steps, miles, or minutes of activity through the *JustWalkWorcester* website to start earning your free prizes! Move your way and be active wherever you want, whenever you want.

According to the National Institutes of Health, walking can “lower your risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes. It can strengthen your bones and muscles. It may help you maintain a healthy weight. It might also help lift your mood.” Worcester is full of fantastic parks, trails, and places to walk alone or with a group.



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Health Officer

Thank you to the town of Berlin, Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Assateague State Park, and Shad Landing State Park for their continued support and their efforts to keep our parks beautiful and accessible.

For more information on places to walk in Worcester or to join *Just Walk*, visit JustWalkWorcester.org or call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108.

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