

**MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
January 28, 2020 (7:00 p.m.)**

In attendance were Mayor Steve Maneri, Treasurer Peter Michel, Secretary Ronald Belinko, Council Member Sharon Brienza, Council Member Barbara Ryer, Town Manager Debbie Botchie, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Maneri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Maneri led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

All Council members were present. Mayor Steve Maneri stated his thanks to Council, Town Manager Debbie Botchie, and the Millville Volunteers for all their work at the Fire & Ice Festival Block Party on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Lord's Landscaping.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Discuss and possible vote on creating Town Park rules, policies and procedures, including but not limited to, assigning tasks to the Town Park & Recreation Committee.

Mayor Steve Maneri stated he doesn't understand why Council wanted to get involved with making these rules of the park so quickly, which is why Mayor Gordon, back in 2016, formed the Park Committee. Mayor Maneri stated the Park Committee did an outstanding job, putting in long hours and a lot of meetings. Mayor Maneri stated now the Committee is coming to the end of finishing their duties regarding the Town park, one of the last things the Committee has to do is put the rules together. Mayor Maneri stated he feels by taking away the Committee to complete this task is wrong; and all the Committee was doing was the "leg work" for Council, and once the Committee would have completed their drafting of the rules, the rules would be recommended to Council for the final say and vote. Mayor Maneri asked if any of Council had more to say on this item.

Council Member Barbara Ryer stated she knows there's three (3) Council members on the Park Committee. Mayor Maneri stated yes, himself, Secretary Ronald Belinko, and Treasurer Peter Michel. Ms. Ryer asked who the two (2) citizen residents are on the Committee. Mayor Maneri stated Pat Plocek and Paul DuCott. Ms. Ryer stated her first thought was "would it be a conflict of interest if something the Park Committee approves comes to Council for approval and Council people are making the rules and would it be OK?" Ms. Ryer stated she found out it is OK that a person can be on a Committee and approve it. Ms. Ryer stated she thinks more eyes is better than one set and anyone who's willing to add information or suggest something might want to be considered; but ultimately, the Mayor has the authority to do what was done. Ms. Ryer stated her opinion is if everyone works together – like in groups and not just at workshop meetings – but maybe outside of meetings for specific hours on specific days. Mayor Maneri asked Ms. Ryer what she means by "work together." Ms. Ryer stated as a group. Mayor Maneri

stated the Town has to have public meetings for such a thing, so each meeting would have to be advertised a week in advance and put up on the Town website. Mayor Maneri stated because there was a quorum in the Park Committee, there was always a meeting agenda put out. Ms. Ryer stated she had never been to one before so she wasn't sure how it worked. Mayor Maneri stated a lot of people didn't go to the [Park Committee] meetings. Ms. Ryer stated since the Committee meeting is open to the public, could she attend as a private citizen? Mayor Maneri stated yes. Ms. Ryer asked if she could submit her comments at the meetings. Mayor Maneri stated if Council wants to partake in coming up with the rules, Mayor Maneri has a list of rules which each Council member can take, but it's up to Council what they want to do. Ms. Ryer stated she doesn't mind helping. Mayor Maneri stated he truthfully doesn't even know why this is on the agenda tonight – because someone must have spoken up and said something.

Town Manager Debbie Botchie stated she sent Council an email on January 9, 2020, stating the park is coming to near the end, and the Town needs park rules, community center rules and regulations. Ms. Botchie stated she was informed by the former Mayor (Bob Gordon) that he wanted to dissolve the Park & Recreations Committee but he did not do it formally. Ms. Botchie stated she sent this email out to Council and the first person to reply was Council Member Sharon Brienza who said yes, she wanted it on the agenda. Ms. Botchie stated Council then received an email from the Mayor saying he would like the Park Committee to do it. Ms. Botchie stated after Mayor Maneri's email, Secretary Ronald Belinko sent Ms. Botchie an email stating Mr. Belinko felt this should stay at the Council level. Ms. Botchie stated after Mr. Belinko's email, Ms. Ryer sent Ms. Botchie an email stating this should be on the Council level. Ms. Botchie stated she is required and obligated if any Council member tells her to put something on the agenda, she is obligated to do so. Ms. Botchie stated she contacted Town Solicitor Seth Thompson who drafted the agenda. Mayor Maneri stated if we're going to keep this on the agenda, how will we do this with park rules now?

Council Member Sharon Brienza stated she has had a discussion with Mayor Maneri and they both "agree to disagree" and she is not a believer that a quorum of the governing body should be doing that. Ms. Brienza stated if there were only two (2) members of the governing body as a part of the Parks Committee, Ms. Brienza would not have a problem with it. Ms. Brienza stated she does not feel it is appropriate to have three (3) members of the Committee to sit with two (2) other members of the public to make decisions basically de facto Council meeting. Mayor Maneri stated it's not decisions – they're recommendations. Ms. Brienza stated if the three (3) Council members on the Park Committee agree to something and the remaining two (2) Council members don't, the remaining two (2) really have no vote. Mayor Maneri stated they still bring the recommendation to you and you still have a vote. Ms. Brienza stated if the three (3) Council members (on Committee) have already decided what you want to do on something, and the other two (2) don't agree with it, yes, the two (2) can make their vote known, but they will still be overridden by the three (3). Treasurer Peter Michel stated if the heartburn is to have the three (3) Council members on the Committee, just make it two (2) members instead; because the Park Committee, with the expertise they had, did a lot of good stuff, brought it to Council and we decided. Mr. Michel stated if the only issue is having the three (3), let's make it two (2) Council people. Ms. Brienza stated she appreciates all the work they did and she knows they worked long hours and they've done a phenomenal job.

Secretary Ronald Belinko stated he wanted this brought to the Council level because he feels

the rules and regulations is you can make a whole set of rules for the park which are posted and they're unenforceable; but you need to break it down into ordinances for the park which will be more enforceable, and there has to be another set of rules for the community building; as well as discussion on alcohol for the park, it's not allowed, but if there is an event, there should be a policy in place for such occasions. Mr. Belinko stated there are a tremendous magnitude of things to be taken into account by Council, and however it's distributed, it's fine. Mayor Maneri stated Council can break it down. Mayor Maneri stated Ms. Brienza is in charge of the rules for the recreation/community building; Mr. Michel is in charge of the playground rules; Mr. Belinko is in charge of the challenge course and pickleball court rules; and Ms. Ryer is in charge of the park rental rules. Mayor Maneri stated he would like to have the rules back to him in thirty (30) days. Ms. Ryer asked if she is charge of the rental rules of the community building. Mayor Maneri stated yes. Ms. Brienza stated she thought that was what she was doing. Mayor Maneri stated Ms. Ryer is doing the rental rules of the building, but Ms. Brienza is doing the rules just for anyone using the building, but not renting it. Ms. Ryer asked if she should leave the rental price blank for Council to decide or if she should come up with an amount. Mayor Maneri stated for Ms. Ryer to come up with an amount so Council can gauge from there and decide. Mayor Maneri stated he doesn't think the Town will ever rent out the entire park, but just in case, Ms. Ryer should come up with an amount for that as well. Ms. Brienza stated she and Ms. Ryer should work together on the community building rules since those are "one and the same."

Mayor Maneri stated he brought tonight Mr. Vaughan Baker, who is an "ex-tennis pro," teacher and pickleball player, as well as a columnist on the subject for the *Coastal Point* (newspaper). Mayor Maneri asked Mr. Vaughan if he could help out Mr. Belinko. Mr. Baker stated yes, he's always in discussions with people so he can work with Mr. Belinko. Mr. Belinko asked if Mayor Maneri was talking about rules for court use. Mayor Maneri stated yes, they have to figure out about how the court will be used, when it can be used, and possible rental.

Mr. Belinko motioned to have the Town Council draft the rules for the park and its amenities. Ms. Ryer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

## **5. CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Pat Plocek, of Blue Heron Drive, stated he would be happy to help if anyone needs any assistance with rules and regulations and would be happy to meet with people, and give any recommendations. Mayor Maneri stated his thanks to Mr. Plocek for all his work on the Park and its Committee. Mr. Plocek stated for Council to remember not to make any of the rules on the signs have a negative connotation – such as reading in big letters "NO" – because it aggravates people. Mr. Plocek stated when writing the rules, realize someone is going to have to enforce them, so don't get real petty with the rules. Mr. Plocek stated a police officer is not going to go out there and make somebody pick up a piece of trash. Mr. Plocek stated some of the rules and regulations are going to be very hard to be enforced because the Town doesn't have personnel in that park full-time. Mr. Plocek stated when you also do a park ordinance, you may not have all your rules in the ordinance.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING –TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Belinko motioned to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Brienza seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Amerling, Town Clerk