

Volunteering

What a different township Warrington would be were it not for the various committees of volunteers that support our paid staff and Board of Supervisors in running the Township. I am not restricting this to our professionals in the Warrington Fire Department, and the Warrington Community Ambulance Squad, but talking about the Boards, Committees and Councils, as well as the Ad Hoc Committees formed to address specific needs.

All of these Committees play an active role in supporting the Township government. Some meet regularly, usually monthly, while others meet less frequently, or as necessary. Some of these organizations have on-going programs, while others may meet for a specific requirement. All are prepared to “jump in” and help following a call to their elected Chairperson.

There are over 100 individuals who have volunteered to serve on these Committees, some on more than one. During the last year, their activities have included, but are not limited to:

- **The Ad Hoc Planning Committee** has been working with the Bucks County Planning Commission on redrafting the Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

- **The Ad Hoc Police Committee** has played a major role working with the Township Manager, the Township Engineer and Architect in the design of the Police Station.
- **The Barness Tennis & Swim Club Advisory Council** has been busy marketing the Mary Barness Tennis & Swim Club and improving the overall appearance of the facility.
- **The Bike and Hike Trails Committee** continues to work on expanding the trails in the Township.
- **The Building Code Appeals Board** meets when necessary in response to issues concerning Codes.
- **The Communications Advisory Board** is continuing to monitor and consult on issues relating to the cable industry and cell phone towers.
- **The Environmental Advisory Council** has literally saved the Township thousands of taxpayer monies by naturalizing stormwater basins and allowing Warrington to comply with our MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) criteria. In their spare time, they can be found planting trees, maintaining the basins and hosting their annual Day of Community Service event. All of this is accomplished while writing grant applications that makes their programs self-supporting.

- **The Historic Commission** has been reviewing developer's plans with the results that numerous artifacts and historic construction materials have been saved for use in restoration projects. The Historic Commission works closely with the Historical Society. The Historical Society is separate from the Township. The Society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization 501(C)(03) and is instrumental in the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse located at 10 Folly Road.
- **Open Space and Land Preservation Committee** has inherited the responsibility for implementing the Open Space Plan and the Mill Creek preservation.
- **Park and Recreation Board** is working with the landscape architect in developing the Lion's Pride Park and working with the many sports organizations on maintaining the active parks for the community.
- **The Pension Committee** continues work with our professional consultants to monitor and make recommendations to modify the pension plans with the goal of making them 100% funded.
- **The Planning Commission** continues to review development plans and this year drafted a historical Conservation Ordinance that optimizes the creation of open space.

- **The Vacancy Board** is always ready but has not had to fill any positions where elected officials had to be replaced this year.
- **The Veteran Affairs Committee** has just completed their annual Memorial Day program and is developing a plan to assist veteran's that need a little extra help.
- **The Youth Aid Panel** continues to work with troubled youngsters to as a diversion to them being lost in the criminal justice system.
- **The Zoning Hearing Board** has the responsibility of interpreting the out of date Zoning and SALDO Codes.

Add up the thousand hours of “free work” the Township receives and you can see why the Board of Supervisors and Township staff greatly appreciates the work that all of the various Boards/Committees/Councils accomplish and contribute to Warrington Township.

Fred R. Gaines, Chair, Board of Supervisors