

## **Director's Report - April 2020**

**Wedding and Event Rentals/Events** - Our rental schedules have been cleared for April and several of the events in May. So far, everyone who booked with us has agreed to either reschedule or take credit for a future booking. With all the uncertainty, there have been a lot of schedule revisions over the past few weeks. The end of March was quiet for inquiries but in the past week and a half, I have had a resurgence of requests for both wedding and mansion rentals. I have done a few virtual tours and many phone calls discussing our rescheduling options. We have two new mansion rentals for the summer as well as a tentative mansion wedding. Pavilion rental inquiries have also started back up again for summer dates. I am feeling a bit optimistic that we may see a return to the appeal of outdoor weddings with the continued social distancing precautions. As of right now, our first rental is in mid-June and all is pending the decision of the state for re-opening. \* We have also had a request to convert a graduation party to a prom – currently discussing the possibilities.

**Grassland/Wildflower Meadow** – the area has been prepped and amazingly we are able to get the Truax drill for seeding that I had requested with the PA Game Commission. I am organizing the planting for the first week of May, weather dependent.

**Student Interns** – both student intern projects have been cancelled. For obvious reasons, Sara Bridel will not be coming from Switzerland to join us for several weeks and it does not appear that this would be possible to reschedule. Anna, our Garden Spot High School intern was also not able to complete her artifact cataloging study as the school year was cancelled. I will be interviewing students for next year once the program is again organized.

**Grants** - I applied once again for the Lancaster Sierra Club grant for sustainable environments. I also applied for the Federal Small Business Administration - Disaster Loan Assistance – Loan/Grant. I was able to apply the day it was announced and we have thus far received confirmation of eligibility.

**Covid – 19 - Playground/Pavilion/Free Library** – After a busy and sunny weekend on March 14-15, with heavy use of the playground, I suggested/requested from the township that we close off the playground. We consulted with the Emergency Management Coordinators and it was decided the best solution was to close off the access to the pavilion and playground to reduce the potential for contamination. The tenant in the East Tenant House has been agreeable to move the barrier as he comes in and out. We tried leaving it open but people were congregating in the back. I also closed the Free Library.

Thus far, people have been cooperative and following social distance measures. We have been heavily used in the past few weeks. Most people are walking, dog walking and picnicking. With the early open if trout season, we've also had quite a few people fishing, but not crowding. There has been an increase in trash and dog waster though unfortunately.

**White Chimneys** – have postponed their event for this year and rescheduled for July 3 2021.

**Spring Events** – The Spring Plant Swap and Trout Derby have been cancelled. I have given priority to rebooking mansion and wedding rentals and will then find a weekend to reschedule the Tea and Photography Show. I am hopeful that we will be able to hold our Summer Children's Program and Fall Events. I am a little concerned that in the event of a resurgence of the virus, we

may have to look at how we do our Christmas Show this year. I have also been approached by the Landmark Program about hosting a virtual tea. I am just finding out the details.

### **Township Meeting**

We had a teleconference meeting which went very well and why we thought this could also work for our board meeting. Much of the discussion surrounded Covid-19 changes, precautions and new procedures. I discussed the cancelling of our spring events, the closing of the playground and pavilion and the increase in traffic in the park.

**Garden Committee** – we have benefitted by having volunteers with extra time and our gardens are already mulched and looking beautiful. Once we are through the current cold snap, we will look at planning and planting for the summer. Volunteers have been working singly or in family groups.

**Property Maintenance Committee** – no meeting but work is ongoing. We have one person mowing for the week. A few volunteers have been picking up debris and sticks, I have been working on a riparian buffer and all projects requiring groups are on hold. The meadow area has also been too wet to rework the nature trail. We will not put the picnic tables out in the park until it is safer to do so.

4/29/20 – Additions to the above – We received the Sierra Club Grant to be put towards the work on the Grassland Meadow and Pollinator Garden. The Truax drill was delivered and the seed is ready for planting on the meadow but we will need quite a few dry days beforehand. Unfortunately, we just received the request to cancel the June 20 wedding. All other events so far have been postponed.