Barrett Township Supervisors

Minutes of Workshop Meeting on July 15, 2026 – 6:30 P.M

A Workshop meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday July 15, 2026, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Grant Hilfiger.

Present: Grant Hilfiger, Patti O'Keefe, Darryl Speicher, Bill Pipolo, Sean Anlauf, Janine Sopko, and the public.

Grant Hilfiger began the meeting, reminding those in attendance that this is a workshop with no votes or formal actions to be taken. Discussions were for informational purposes only.

1. Special Meeting – Paving Project Bids (Oak Lane & Spruce Cabin Road)

Grant Hilfiger announced a special meeting on July 29 at 6:30 PM to open bids for the paving project. Grant said the project was previously put out for bid once, but only one bid was received and never opened. The project was re-advertised to encourage competition and secure the best price. The goal is to receive at least two bids to ensure competitive pricing.

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2. PARC – Park Committee Overview and History

Patti O'Keefe provided a detailed background on Barrett's involvement with PARC and the current state of the parks. The collaboration began in 2002 between Mount Pocono, Paradise, and Barrett to purchase three parcels of land using county open space money. An official agreement was established in 2004; Mount Pocono withdrew in 2015, and a revised agreement for Barrett and Paradise was signed in 2019. Patti said the five-member board meets monthly and manages Ice Lake, Seven Pines, and Skywood parks. Grant funding was used to build baseball fields at Seven Pines; disc golf was recently added at Skywood. Patti said a fitness trail at Skywood fell into disuse and is being replaced; two pickleball courts are planned for Seven Pines in the open area near the baseball fields. Funding is based on $3 per resident using 2010 census data — Barrett had 4,225 residents and Paradise had 3,186. Maintenance responsibilities are divided: Barrett covers Ice Lake, Paradise covers Skywood, and Seven Pines is shared (currently handled mostly by Paradise).

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3. Skywood Park – ADA Accessibility Concerns

Christine Esposito raised concerns about Skywood Park's lack of ADA accessibility, particularly following the addition of disc golf. The park is not accessible for people with disabilities or handicaps; the ability to maneuver a wheelchair around the gate does not constitute ADA compliance. The addition of disc golf as a new feature triggers a higher standard of accessibility requirements.

Christine suggested the gate should be open at minimum during business hours, with staff available to lock and unlock it. Christine noted she had raised this issue with Patti weeks prior and asked whether it had been brought to the PARC committee. Grant explained that the gate

was installed due to vandalism concerns and the difficulty of monitoring the park given its layout. Patti stated the township is exploring expanding the parking area closer to the park entrance and looking into a call-in system for gate access, pending staffing solutions.

Carla Price raised a safety concern — if wheelchairs can bypass the gate, so can vandals; also noted that families with children need safe, closer access, especially in winter. She also mentioned that the Park Board cited prostitution and drug activity as reasons for the gate.

Grant acknowledged the issue and committed to having Patti raise it again at the next PARC meeting.

Christine Esposito stated she would contact representatives and other organizations to push for accessibility compliance if the issue is not addressed internally. She also asked if the $2,000.00 donation that the PARC committee was asking for was ever donated, Grant confirmed that the $2,000 for disc golf baskets was tabled and not voted on at the last meeting.

4. Ice Lake Slides – Replacement Needed

Grant Hilfiger noted that the slides at Ice Lake have been damaged throughout the season and need to be replaced. Grant requested that Daryl, Patti, or Sean assist in locating replacement slides and obtaining cost quotes.

5. Momentum Gym – Expansion into Room 6

Jackson Schwartz and Stacey Raza: Presented a proposal to expand the public gym from rooms 4 and 5 into Room 6. Jackson spoke about the gym in rooms 2 - 5 and golf simulator in room 1, private training and group classes in Rooms 2 and 3, and the public gym in Rooms 4 and 5.

The expansion aims to alleviate congestion during peak morning and evening hours, particularly around cardio equipment. The gym currently has 170 gym members with a projected 800 member visits in the current month; with 4–5 people in the space, it becomes difficult to move around. Expansion would involve removing the wall between Rooms 5 and 6, taking down billboards, and removing specific cabinets and sinks.
Stacy Raza spoke about the expansion and how it would allow for more senior-friendly equipment and upper body machines and potentially qualify the gym for the Silver Sneakers program (Medicare-supported).
Jackson said approximately 90% of members are from within Barrett; the gym serves members ranging from juniors to those in their late 80s.

Grant expressed enthusiasm about the expansion and noted that Room 6 is available. He also indicated that lease terms (currently membership percentage-based) are in early negotiation, with square footage pricing also being considered. Carol Hardy asked how they are charged for rent, Grant explained it is a charge by square foot.

6. Zoning Violation – Roman Archacki

Roman Presented his case regarding a notice of violation concerning a fence and driveway on his property. Roman spoke about the submitted Zoning Hearing Board appeal form on July 11 to protect his rights and meet the deadline; the appeal fee has not yet been paid.

Regarding the fence, Roman said he replaced an existing, damaged fence along the historic fence line; he did not create a new fence in a new location. The property is approximately 36 acres used for agricultural and horticultural purposes; he has planted an orchard, registered the property as a farm, and enrolled in Clean and Green. Roman cited Section 525-23H3C, paragraph 5B, which states that standard fence regulations do not apply to fences solely required for agricultural and horticultural use.

Roman is requesting evidence used to determine that no prior fence existed and stated he has photographs documenting the historic fence and its location.

Regarding the driveway — Roman said it is an existing driveway; he did not relocate it, create a second driveway, or change where it meets the road. He cited Section 440-16, which permits ordinary repairs to existing driveways without application or notices to the roadmaster, excluding asphalt resurfacing, regrading, and stormwater diversion. He said work was done to stabilize and improve safety of the existing access, not to widen or alter it; stone was installed as part of erosion and sediment control in coordination with the Conservation District.

Roman asked the township to identify what specific portion of the driveway was considered newly constructed, what ordinance provision prohibits maintenance improvements, and how the agricultural fence exemption was considered before the notice was issued.

Grant confirmed that a meeting has been arranged involving the supervisors, the zoning officer, the zoning company owner, and Roman (and his wife) to work through the concerns collaboratively. Grant also reminded attendees that supervisors are not zoning officers or the Zoning Hearing Board.

Grant also commended Roman for volunteering during the Bedco cleanup day.

7. Community Events and Announcements

Grant spoke about the SOS Pet Rescue event on Saturday July 11th, resulted in 35 pets served, 58 vaccines administered, and 17 microchips completed.

Patti spoke about the Patriot Recognition Program on Sunday July 12th, it drew over 65 attendees, featured the Fife and Drum Corps, and was covered by Channel 13 news.

Matt Long spoke about the Bedco cleanup program on Monday July 13th; it helped 49 people; a veteran on a fixed income volunteered to help at the next event; the next cleanup is planned for September with sign-ups available online.

Matt Long spoke about the Five Villages Live Concert which is scheduled for July 25–26, 4pm–10pm outdoors; 50% off tickets available for Barrett residents through Pocono Mountain Music Festival events and an upcoming in-town opportunity; volunteers are still needed if anyone was interested.

- Patti O'Keefe read off the upcoming events:
  - July 17: Cabaret Night - 7:30PM ~ BARC Gym
    Pocono Mt. Music Festival
  - July 18: The Very Hungry Caterpillar ~ 11:00AM ~ BARC Gym
    Pocono Mt. Music Festival
  - July 19: Tea and Symphony ~ 4:00PM ~ Skytop Lodge
    Pocono Mt. Music Festival
  - July 24: The Room Where It Happens ~ 6:00PM ~ gym
    Pocono Mt. Music Festival
  - July 25–26: Five Villages Live Concert ~ 4:00pm ~ 10:00pm ~ BARC Outdoor Facilities
    Five Villages
  - July 27: Story Time at Ice Lake ~ 1:30 PM ~ Ice Lake Pavilion
    Barrett/Paradise Friendly Library ~ **registration is required, please call the library to register**
  - August 1: LOL for the Library Comedy Night ~ 8:00pm ~ Buck Hill Falls Tennis Tea ~
    Barrett/Paradise Friendly Library
  - August 7: Mad Dogs and Englishmen ~ 7:30 PM ~ Bark Gym
    Pocono Mt. Music Festival
  - August 8: Summertime Frolic ~ 12:00pm ~ 4:00pm ~ High Acres Park
    Barrett Township High Acres Park Committee
  - August 8–9: Estate and Treasure Sale ~ Aug 8th ~ 10:00am ~ 4:00pm ~ Aug. 9th ~ 10:00am – 2:00pm
    The Friendly Community Center
  - August 10: Story Time ~ 1:30pm ~ High Acres Pavillion
    Barrett Paradise Friendly Library ~ **registration is required, please call the library to register**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm