

**NJRPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MEETING NOTES
JULY 7, 2021**

Present: Bill Foelsch, Denise Lanza, Ryan Horne, Jen Underwood, Kat Avitt, Dina Trunzo, Don Bogardus, Carl F. Jennings, Dawn Thompson, Rick Wright, Debbie Oliver, Jim Truncer.

May 2021 Meeting Minutes: Dina motioned, seconded by Jen Underwood to approve the minutes. Motion passes with one abstention (Dawn Thompson).

Current Initiatives Status:

Recreation Certification Bills (S3741/A5973) – there are two sponsors, but the bills are not assigned to committees yet. The workgroup will continue their efforts through the summer with Rick and Kat. The legislature is on summer break. Outreach to legislators. NJRPA members will mount an education campaign to describe the benefits of certification. A statement will be created and shared with members.

Department of Health Guidelines –

Summer Recreation – Youth Camps – Jen Gander provided written notice that the Camp Act expires in 12/2022. It was suggested that NJRPA should be represented at the table if possible. Currently, most recreation camps are not covered by the Act, but some regulations are open to interpretation. This is concerning. Rick will reach out to staff at the Governor’s office to discuss our interests.

Recreational Bathing – There was no update from the workgroup at the time of the meeting. Limited recommendations have been received. Some agencies are “recommending” masks for unvaccinated individuals. Conflicting and evolving information has come from the State Dept. of Health just prior to season opening in late May and early June.

Accessible playgrounds – there has been no movement on the regulations. Rick will ask for an update on the status.

Forest Stewardship – Testimony was provided to the Assembly committee but we were not able to testify on the Senate committee due to time limits, but no action was taken. There were major conflicting opinions by various organizations seeing the bills as either an environmental benefit or an environmental detriment. The expense of the requirements is a concern to large land managing agencies. NJRPA will continue to monitor.

Amended Bills:

S3618/A5778 – Lake Management – Supplemental appropriation of \$10M. Passed both houses, on Governor’s desk. Pinelands development section was removed. Bill could be held until after Labor Day.

A2957 – Task Force on Youth Sports. Amendments simply relocated sections of the bill. The bill is going to Senate. Rick will speak to Governor’s Counsel about the interest of NJRPA to have a seat on the task force. Bill and Dina will assist.

A5570/S1463, et. al. – Bicycle/pedestrian safety. Bills are on the Governor’s desk.

An added bill – A679/S225 – amendments included the CDC 6 step return to play guidelines for concussion. The bill is on the Governor’s desk.

New Bills:

S3859/A5659 – Tree Removal. Requires State entities to provide a plan for no net loss of forested areas in State developments. **Monitor**

S3878/A5831 – Prohibits mandatory mask use at youth camps. Bills are in committee. **Monitor**

S3910 – no Assembly bill. Palisades Protection and Planning Act. Provides for preservation and the establishment of a Council. **Support**

S3943/A5882 – Provides State funding supplement for summer federal food program costs.

Adds 10 cents to federal reimbursement amount. The bill is on the Governor’s desk. **Support**

A5898/S3963 – Amends summer work hours for certain minors (allows 50 hours with parental permission). Signed into law – **PL2021, c.149.**

S3980 – Provides that a nonprofit operating a ski area does not have to meet certain requirements of slope designation and safety information. Rick will speak to the sponsor.

Oppose

S4005 – Provides funding for after school recreation programs in urban areas. Provides \$1B for equipment, supplies, programs, and reopening parks. **Support**

A5736 – Clarifies that the prohibitions on smoking in public apply to cannabis. Exceptions for smoking DO NOT apply to cannabis. **Support**

NJ State Budget Review: Special allocations were reviewed for certain park and recreation agencies. Funding is also included for job creation.

NEXT MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER 10, NOVEMBER 10. September Meeting may be cancelled if legislative activity is limited prior to Election Day.