

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks and Recreation Committee Members: Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Kip McFatridge, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks & Recreation Department.

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order via audio conference call following the conclusion of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners McFatridge and Lockard and Mr. Stasio. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - nothing to report.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - June 22, 2020** - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report - Mr. Stasio reported the following updates:
 - A new fountain at Masons Mill Park was installed and is working.
 - The Master Trail Plan is complete, reimbursement requests to Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) were all submitted, approved and are awaiting receipt by the Township.
 - Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, has modified the Summer camp programs and coordinated building measurements, safety protocols and staff training.
 - Maintenance staff continue to practice social distancing, wear face masks, and perform the parks upkeep of grass cuttings and trash collections.
 - Commissioner McFatridge commended the Parks and Recreation maintenance crew for expediting installation of the new fountain at Masons Mill Park and thanked the public for reporting the problem with the old fountain.
 - Commissioner Scull commended the Parks and Recreation Department for removing the trash container reported on fire at Woodlawn Park.
 - B. Library Board of Trustees Report - Lisa Quinn, Trustee Member:
 - The Library building is open for approximately 35 hours per week and is limited to a maximum of 56 patrons at one time, while keeping six feet apart. Computers are limited to 30-minute sessions; all virtual and contact free pick-up services continue by calling at 215-659-0741.
 - Shelving for audio visual materials has been expanded in coordination with the Upper Dublin Library offices, which will be moving to Virginia Drive.
 - Friends Of The Library's annual fund campaign raised \$7,740 and thanks was given to donors for their support during the pandemic.
 - Mary Meister has volunteered to serve as the Community Member on the Library Facility Committee.
 - Pennsylvania Office of Commonwealth Libraries 2020-2021 funding is expected to be significantly reduced and delayed this fiscal year by a potentially \$50,000. State budget negotiations will begin in November.

- Commissioner Scull thanked Margie Peters, Director, for all her work to keep the Library operating throughout the pandemic.

V. **Old Business:**

A. Farmstead Park Roofing/Propane Request - Alan Sentman, Chair, provided the following updates:

- A Keystone Grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a \$50,000 match is being pursued for roof repairs on the farmhouse and carriage house. Temporary patches will be performed while preparing for the capital projects. Estimates for the farmhouse are between \$40,000 to \$60,000 depending on the extent of work. Estimates for the carriage house need to be obtained.
- Installation of a propane tank to serve the heating system is approximately \$1,100 to be paid by Friends of Boileau.
- Pest control has removed infestations, which were causing damage.
- Mr. Stasio requested permission to install the propane tank inground behind the farmhouse. Commissioner McFatrige recommended discussing the best safety options with John Fugelo, Fire Marshall.
- Commissioner Scull requested that the Township split the cost of installing the propane tank.
- Commissioner Valenza commented that leasing a tank includes a contract for fuel, which is usually at a higher rate. Mr. Sentman replied that the lease includes a maintenance service. Commissioner Valenza suggested purchasing the tank and fuel separately for the best price. Commissioner Scull replied that purchasing and installation of the inground tank would cost \$3,400.
- Commissioner Spearing commented concerns on leasing the tank, favors purchasing an above-ground tank, and suggested researching ideas of future sustainable reuse of the property.
- Commissioner Scull directed Mr. Sentman to research additional estimates for the tank.
- Commissioner Scull stated that with installation of a heating system, the building could be renovated and used for a small office, which would provide a funding source to maintain the property.
- Susan, a resident, commented that an above-ground tank would also have costs related to maintenance and security.
- The Committee recommended a move for action by the Board of Commissioners at the August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting to share the cost for installation of the propane tank.

B. Farmstead Park Environmental Grants:

- Mr. Stasio stated that the Township has partnered with Pennypack Restoration Trust to pursue the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant. He discussed their terms and conditions and, asked the Committee if they are committed in pursuing them by the deadline of Friday, July 24, 2020.
- The Committee agreed to reapply to the grants in 2021 and will continue the discussion at a future Committee meeting.

VI. **New Business:**

A. **Aqua's request for Sample Station at Pileggi Park:**

- Mr. Stasio stated that stations are also located at Fair Oaks Park and Mill Creek Park.
- Commissioner Spearing recommended that Mr. Stasio contact Aqua and request to

relocate the sample station from Pileggi Park to the basin at Butternut Drive.

- The Committee recommended a move for action at the August 3, 2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting to locate the sample station at the basin of Butternut Drive.

B. Spotted Lanternfly Update:

- Mr. Stasio stated that many residents have reported sightings. He explained that treatments are expensive without total eradication of the insect. Research is ongoing to find natural predators and fungi that could control the problem.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired on Montgomery County's involvement. Mr. Stasio replied that information is posted to their website and they are working with a number of agencies to eradicate the problem.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested evaluating and treating the inventory of heritage trees.

VII. **Other Items** - Nothing to report.

VIII. **Visitor Comments** - Nothing to report.

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Scull stated that the August 17, 2020 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is canceled.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.