

Eldred Township Parks and Recreation

Eldred Township Municipal Building
490 Kunkletown Road
Kunkletown, PA 18058

January 11, 2022

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Attendance: Present: Mary Anne Clausen, Joyce Blaskow, Diana Pucci, Joe Pucci, Lydia Boileau

Attending remotely: Annette Heist, JoAnn Bush

Also in attendance: Blaine Silfies, Eldred Twp Supervisor

Call to Order: Mary Anne Clausen

Secretary pro temp: Lydia Boileau

Public Comment: Blaine Silfies reported he had re-contacted Vo-Tech, awaiting response

Approval of Minutes: Mary Anne made motion, seconded by Joe that December minutes be approved.

Election of Officers: Joyce nominated Mary Anne to continue as Chairperson; seconded by Lydia. All in favor. Mary Anne added comment that she hoped members of Committee would join her at Township meetings to indicate their care for parks.

Mary Anne indicated need for Vice Chairperson. Lydia nominated Joe, seconded by Mary Anne. All in favor. Committee members who are unable to attend meetings or will attend remotely should let Joe know in advance. He will make arrangements for remote attendance if necessary and also see that everyone who is not physically present gets any handouts.

Secretary: Lydia suggested continuing with rotating Secretary and made that motion with Joyce as second. All in favor.

Annette added her comment related to Mary Anne's request for members to join her at Township meetings that she hoped the Board of Supervisors would know members cared about parks even if not present at Twp Meetings because of members' willingness to give their time to Parks meetings and projects.

Board Actions: The BOS adopted the requested new rules for the Parks and Village Square; those being No Overnight Parking and Directive to Clean Up After Pets. The rules have not been posted as yet. The Village Square has been further delineated with the placement of boulders. Mary Anne has received several comments about them from members of the Public, most being favorable.

Re Dumpster moving: Ann has written letter to Rachel requesting she follow through as agreed upon and is waiting for BOS to sign it.

Village Square Grant: Lengthy discussion re Grant. Mary Anne spoke with Christine Dettore, Regional Advisor, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Ann Velopolcek, after which conversation she felt more confident about getting the grant application completed. However, we can

no longer wait to hear whether we will receive the grant we requested from RecTAP and still have the application for the DCNR grant complete before the April 4 deadline.

The Committee briefly reviewed the Questions to be addressed for the Grant. One of the benefits of the Village Square being that it could be a possible Trailhead in the Chestnut Ridge Trail to Palmerton. Planting of native trees and plants addressing drainage issues on the south side of stream offered, as well as the reduction in carbon emissions if people choose to use a local green space rather than driving to one at farther distance. The fact that the Square will be adapted to meet ADA guidelines is a positive. And that planning for the Square has been discussed at meetings with public input for the past 7 years is also a plus. Preservation of the historic Stone Arch Bridge, the contributions of the Dept. Public Works all add up to positives in proposing why Eldred should be recipient of Grant to create the Village Square. Letters of support are also needed for the application; the Township Historical Society, CJERP, Wilderness Society are a few of the organizations to which the Committee can look for support.

The Committee was unanimous that it would play an active role in preparing the application. However, before investing the time to do this, it would be necessary to be assured of the approval and support of the Board of Supervisors. Lydia moved, with Annette as second, that the Committee ask the supervisors to obtain an estimate and time frame from Hanover for preparing the landscape/site plan needed for the DCNR grant application in time for the Board to have that information before its meeting on January 27 so it can vote to engage Hanover to prepare the plan at that time. The motion was approved unanimously. Mary Anne agreed to write letter re this to BOS.

Mock Park: Joe has a map of the current trails posted on the Website. He will be getting copies to Frank to post along with the new rules at each site.

Joe has also taken time to scout out potential new trails and will do rough sketch to present at next meeting.

Website: Joe has planned presentation for February meeting.

Potential 2022 expenditures: Fees to Hanover; monies for plantings to enhance the Square prior to any formal landscaping project undertaken. Also to be considered- fundraising projects to offset expenses. One project discussed is selling of embossed bricks or pavers in a walkway or patio area.

Revisions to Committee Policy: a reminder it must be done!

Other: A request was made that Minutes be distributed in advance of meetings. Mary Anne apologized for lateness of distribution of Minutes, stating Annette had submitted to her some time ago and it was an oversight not to "send."

Lydia gave JoAnn's key to Blaine. The Committee will ask the Board to assign Joe a key to open the building for meetings as Vice Chairperson.

There being no other business before the Committee, Lydia made motion to adjourn with Diana seconding it. Vote in favor was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.