

Eldred Township Parks and Recreation

Eldred Township Municipal Building
490 Kunkletown Road
Kunkletown, PA 18058

February 1, 2022

(Special) Parks and Recreation Meeting

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

Members Attending Virtually: JoAnn Bush, Annette Heist

Also in Attendance: Eldred Township Supervisors Gary Hoffman, Blaine Silfies, Scott Clark

Members of the Public: Doug Borger, Maggie Metzgar, Dieter Metzgar

Presenter: Brien Kocher, Hanover Engineering

Call to Order: Mary Anne Clausen

Secretary pro temp: Lydia Boileau

This meeting was organized, advertised to the public, and called to have Brien Kocher from Hanover engineering review with the Committee plans for the Village Square in order that Hanover would be able to provide a scope of work on site development drawing, budget, and a time line so that the Committee would be able to complete grant application for a DCNR community block grant by deadline of April 6, 2022.

A printed outline (attached) was made available for review with comments invited from those present. Also made available (attached) was a Site Plan drawn by Committee member Diana Pucci.

Comments included:

Mary Anne stated the Outline summarizes what the Committee (appointed in June, 2021) has been working on since its July meeting.

Brien indicated that Hanover has some knowledge of the site, having worked on its development previously.

Committee members reiterated that although the current property does have two picnic tables for public use, the intent of the Square is not for it to become solely a public eatery for the several businesses currently open or any future ones that may open. Also of note is that Hanover has worked on parking plans previously, including for parking south of the Stone Arch Bridge.

Questions were raised as to whether the Smale property would need to be surveyed to meet the Grant criteria. Brien was of the opinion that would not be necessary as Hanover could use County materials available.

Concerns were raised by Gary as to FEMA flood plain. Doug Borger confirmed that the Buckwha Stream has flooded the banks of the Smale property in the past. Brien also raised concern about when the bridge was last inspected. Gary stated that Ann Velopolchek had reported the last bridge inspection she found was one done by PENNDOT in 1985.

Brien inquired as to some of the specifics in the Outline. He also noted that Hanover is familiar with the property (not including the Smale property) and noted that if the site will be utilized as a Trailhead, DCNR has criteria regarding amount of parking which must be made available. The parking issue was discussed with Brien reiterating Hanover had done a plan after concerns were raised by Rachel Weidman regarding truck traffic at her General Store.

Doug Borger aired some of his concerns about various projects and said he thought street lights lining the main street of Kunkletown would be an improvement. A Committee member noted that solar lights for the Square were included in the Outline and could be a start. Gary pointed out that Kunkletown Road is a State road and PENNDOT would need to be involved in adding additional lighting.

Dieter suggested that the Square could have enhanced appeal with inclusion of physical exercise "stations" on the property. Consensus being that there isn't enough space for this and that the Community Center field would probably be a better fit.

It was noted that the purpose of this meeting was to share the Grant application with the Public and to obtain Hanover's input into what would be needed to complete the project. Brien inquired as to whether the Committee would do narrative. Mary Anne affirmed that would be the case.

Doug inquired about removal of the Smale house. Removal of the house would alter the site plan, and if this is the intent going forward, Hanover should address it. It was affirmed by the Supervisors that the house is unfit for use and renovation costly and is not planned.

Doug expressed concern about changes in zoning. The group was reminded that re-districting plans will be addressed by Ann Velopolchek at a future Township Meeting.

The meeting concluded with Brien's expression of concern that a deadline in 60 days (April 6, 2022) would be a major obstacle, with Committee members agreeing with Supervisors that the Square will come to fruition and it is best to "do things right" rather than rush to get things done and risk bigger issues in the future.

Those present were reminded that the Parks and Recreation Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 PM in the Municipal Building. The Public is welcomed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM with a motion from Diana, seconded by Joyce.