

## **Eldred Township Parks Advisory Committee**

Eldred Township Municipal Building

490 Kunkletown Road

Kunkletown, PA 18058

### **Eldred Park and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 9, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Joe Pucci.

**Attendance:** Joe Pucci, Diana Pucci, Annette Heist, and Joyce Blaskow.  
Attending remotely was Jo Ann Bush.

Secretary pro temp: Joyce Blaskow

**Approval of Minutes:** Jo Ann Bush made a motion seconded by Annette Heist that the July minutes be approved

**Chairperson and Vice Chairperson selection:** Motion made by Annette Heist to appoint Joe Pucci as chairperson, seconded by Joyce Blaskow. Motion carried, all in favor.

No vice chairperson was appointed at this time. Discussion followed regarding the necessity of appointing a vice chairperson, questioning if the position is required. Annette Heist asked if it would be possible to appoint a vice-chairperson on a pro temp basis if the need arises. Issues stated for the pro temp option were a small group and remote attendance from some committee members. Joe Pucci will follow up and clarify the requirements for the vice chairperson position.

**Status of completed Village Square projects:** The flowers planted earlier in the summer are blooming, spreading, and looking beautiful. Diana Pucci and Joyce Blaskow have been watering and weeding the flowerbed. Joe Pucci power washed the picnic tables, and benches with improvement noted. Public works staff will stain picnic tables and benches. Joe also power washed the Smale house, he found that the siding held up fairly well, and some peeling occurred on the windowsills. According to the public works manager Jonathan, the Ash tree behind the Smale house is dying from an Ash borer disease and may have to be cut down.

**Public comment:** Dieter Metzgar offered to donate maple trees for The Village Square.

Joann Bush offered the following update on the Village Square Property following a meeting with Monroe County Conservation staff. The Village Square Property is less than ½ acre. It is a flood zone but is not considered a wetland area. Erosion control procedures may be needed if a structure is built in the flood zone.

**Status of grants:** Discussion of grants was deferred to a future meeting.

**Bench design:** Joe Pucci presented a summary of 5 different bench styles to be used at Mock Park field trail and possibly at other sites. The offered benches styles were the Boy Scout bench, log style bench, standard park bench, Barcboard bench, and Central Park bench. Another option was to purchase a mold for the central park-style bench. The mold approach would require public works staff to construct the bench with the benefit of multiple benches being made with the mold. Joe Pucci also presented a detailed description of all the benches, the pros and cons, cost, weight, materials to be used, and photos of the various benches. Joe Pucci stated that purchasing the molds to construct the benches would be cost-effective and provide the option of varying the length of the benches. The bench mold could be used in various places throughout the township. Annette Heist located the bench placement in the field trail in Mock Park on the map with five bench designations. Bench placement in the wooded section of the Mock Park trail is undecided. Annette Heist discussed the consideration for maintaining the integrity of the wooded path with the challenge of the terrain and slope with bench placement. Joe Pucci suggested using mulch under the bench for weed control, and Joyce Blaskow suggested gravel stones. Committee will continue to research options for benches and placement.

**Public Comment:** Dieter Metzger suggested benches be placed on concrete slabs to reduce the need for weeding around benches.

**Update of Landscape Design Proposal of Village Square:** Diana Pucci presented a detailed design of the proposed Village Square Project resulting from months of discussions from the park committee and public comment. In order to move forward, the design has been broken down into stages due to construction constraints. The Committee reviewed the proposed stages.

**Stage 1 Step 1:** Install split rail fence along the south and east side of the property, delineate parking lot and park, handicap parking spaces where swing was to be placed. Build a retainer wall to be used as a sitting wall or terraced.

**Stage 2:** Plant shade trees around picnic benches, sitting wall area, and possible tree benches around the ash tree.

**Stage 3 Step 1:** Add walking paths and handicapped accessible walking paths. **Step 2:** Add 3 or 4-sided information board

**Stage 4:** Additional features to be added as money permits, such as a gazebo, additional trees, gardens, hedges, and butterfly garden in flood plain area.

**Stage 5:** Memorial Benches, possible Stone Arch Bridge seal in mosaic, etched granite, or other sculptural artwork to enhance the site.

After discussion, the Committee voted to accept the proposal, pending onsite visual verification of what was described in the proposal. The Committee agreed to meet at the Village Square site next week, August 15, 2022, for the visual confirmation of the proposal and stages.

**Motion made:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Blaskow, seconded by Annette Heist. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

**Addendum:** On August 15, the Committee agreed to accept the updated Landscape design proposal for the Village Square on visual verification from the field visit.