

Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

January 28, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Solebury Township Hall

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Frank N. called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. The following persons were in attendance: Barry Fetterolf, John S Francis, Frank Nassetta, Michael Richardson, Dan Dupont, Michael Zolkewitz, and Darcy Fair.
- III. Topics of Discussion
 - a. Princeton Hydro / Simone Collins (PH/SC) Concerns
 - i. Committee members expressed that they would like to know when PH/SC are working in the park
 - ii. Stakes have been added to Aquetong Spring Park (ASP) as well as surrounding properties (including camp property); Activities need to be communicated to the community and relevant neighbors
 - iii. It was agreed to request a meeting of a committee representative with PH/SC to provide updates as they occur
 - iv. The committee will request notification when there are planned project activities to occur at ASP
 - b. Deer Management Concerns
 - i. Committee discussed the ongoing damage to the park caused by the overpopulation of deer
 - 1. Deer are degrading stream banks and destroying ecosystem by consuming most of the native plants
 - 2. Discussed fencing solution to keep deer away from streams; Concerns were raised that a fence would take away from the 'natural state' of the park
 - 3. Discussed deer sterilization; Concerns were raised that since deer are still alive they would continue to harm to the ecosystem

4. Most successful program to date has been the sharp shooter programs to keep populations in check; There was further discussion on rules reinforced by the gaming commission

c. Future Committee Structure

- i. The committee recognized three main focus areas for future work at ASP park

1. Stream Restoration

- a. The township has attained several grants to help with stream bank restoration projects; Many of these projects are in motion
- b. In the future this work may be moved to the Environmental Advisory Counsel

2. Beautification

- a. The township has attained grants to remove dead ash trees and replant new trees. This project is in motion
- b. Simone Collins has created plans for bathroom, parking lots, etc.; The committee will review these plans before decisions are made

3. Education

- a. Darcy F. has been developing a collaborative relationship with representatives of the Lenape Nation. She espoused the need to move forward to engage with the Lenape Nation and to gather information on potential involvement. She stated she will be moving forward on this and in addition to focus on historical, cultural and educational activities.
 - i. Committee wants to develop a program that teaches people about the park. Program can be shared with Board of Supervisors, Fox Run, Audubon Society, local schools, etc.
 - ii. Although Lenape Nation values the ASP, they don't want their heritage to be used as a marketing tool
 - iii. The committee will find an appropriate and respectful way to bring attention to the cultural aspect of the park without disrespecting the Lenape Nation

- iv. It was suggested that Solebury Township investigate a peace treaty (nonbinding treaty of friendship) with the Lenape Nation (<https://www.lenape-nation.org/>)
- v. Darcy F. will continue to investigate; No commitments to be made without reference to the committee.

ii. Next Steps

- 1. There was discussion into whether this committee should spend more time discussing park infrastructure vs breaking into sub committees to execute work
 - 2. **Committee will invite Parks & Recreation to our next meeting (February 25, 2019) to provide a status update of the park and discuss how future may be delegated (Dan D. and Michael Z. will create an agenda)**
 - a. Committee will work with Parks and Recreation to define what activities are deemed 'passive recreation'
 - b. The committee shall take small gradual steps in the design and implementation of the park elements. Certain major infrastructure elements such as any need for a sand bank for septic tank or parking location may require to be decided sooner, although detailed design and construction would occur later.
 - 3. As more groups become involved, this committee will ensure all groups involved adhere to the original goals outlined in the ASP Master Plan
 - 4. We must embrace the long term restoration maintenance of the park plan and take long term issues into consideration.
- iii. There was discussion as to whether an ASAC mandate needs to be renewed for 2019. Reference to be made to the supervisors.

d. Park Protections

- i. There are concerns that in the future, internal forces may wish to add a dam or execute a project that could bring harm to the ASP ecosystem
- ii. Barry F. suggested investigating a conservation easement which could protect the park from future external development; This will take a long time to achieve and so may need to be started sooner than later.

- iii. Aquetong Watershed Committee is looking into water quality testing to designate the stream as Exceptional Quality with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - 1. If ASP receives acknowledgement as a healthy ecosystem, it would provide more protection
- iv. A meeting attendee made a recommendation to add ASP to Solebury's 'Historic District' if possible to provide additional protection
- v. We must embrace the long term restoration maintenance of the park plan and take long term issues into consideration.

IV. Adjournment

- a. Frank N. asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darcy F. made a motion at 8:13 PM. The motion was seconded by Michael Z. and Michael R.