

Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

June 24, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Solebury Township Hall

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Frank Nassetta called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
  - b. Committee Members in attendance included Barry Fetterolf, John S Francis, Frank Nassetta, and Michael Zolkewitz. Guests included Pat Bacon of Deer Park and Les Isbrandt of the Aquetong Watershed Association (AWA). Minutes were recorded by Alex Nagy of the Township Administration Team.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Michael Z. made a motion to approve the February 22, 2019 and April 29, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Barry F.
- III. Supervisor Liaison Project Status Update
  - a. Princeton Hydro Plan for Stream Restoration
    - i. Stream Restoration Plans have been submitted to Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for approval
    - ii. John F. reported that a successful site tour with Township advisors, DEP and ACOE occurred where they fully appreciated the scope and goals of the stream restoration plan. The result was the recommendation of an expedited process
    - iii. The Township expects the process to last approximately 90 days, which keeps us on track to start construction in the Spring of 2020
    - iv. Barry F. expressed that the committee would like to review the application
    - v. **NEXT STEPS: John F. will request a copy of the application from the Township Manager to share with the committee**
  - b. Grant Status
    - i. Curt Genner of C. Robert Wynn Associates (Township Engineer) is filing for an extension of the DCNR grant, which expires at the end of 2019
    - ii. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) grants will commence after tree harvesting is complete

c. Tree Harvesting / Replanting

- i. Tree Harvesting is 50% complete (slightly delayed due to weather restrictions)
- ii. Most trees are being removed, though some fallen trees are being left in the park for habitat and stream restoration
- iii. 185 trees have been ordered for replanting

d. TA Trail

- i. A project safety review regarding the trail's design and alignment has recently been completed
- ii. The trail was slightly amended, moving the parking lot farther away from the building on the property
- iii. Next steps include the final engineering design. The Township is on track to have the trail and parking lot completed next year

e. Park Wildlife

i. Deer Management Program

1. Concerns were raised that the ecosystem of the park is suffering due to a 25-30% increase in the deer population since last year
2. The Township, through the advice of the EAC, is expanding its deer management program in an ongoing effort to mitigate the problem

ii. Trout

1. Frank N. communicated that the trout population continues to increase based on the results of a recent kick-net sampling. No numerical data exists, as measurements are evaluated on presence versus absence
2. More fish are being found upstream

iii. AWA Study

1. The AWA conducted an invertebrate study which found scuds, mayflies, crane flies, leeches, mosquitoes, salamanders, snakes, and more
2. Barry F. expressed that the presence of crest bugs would be great for the local trout population; Frank N. confirmed that a significant amount of crest bugs can be found in the Park's moss

IV. New Business

a. Committee Structure

- i. Michael Z. expressed that the committee should continue to review plans related to the park
- ii. The committee discussed the possibility of the Aquetong Spring Park Committee eventually becoming a subcommittee within Parks and Recreation. The committee agreed to prepare a recommendation to the BOS on the future structure of the committee, and its relationship to Parks & Rec.
- iii. Members agreed on a short hiatus during the summer, with meetings resuming in late summer or early autumn. Notice of the next meeting will be forthcoming
- iv. Future topics of discussion will include reengagement with the Parks and Recreation Committee

b. Future Projects

- i. Barry F. proposed the creation of an outdoor learning center that could be used to teach children how to fly fish ethically
- ii. The committee discussed this possibility and agreed that projects like this are possible and may be explored after the completion of the stream's restoration.
- iii. John F. communicated that as we move to the cultural phase of creating the park, the committee will receive a wide array of suggested activities; We should be prepared to consider what activities should take place in the park
- iv. Barry F. shared that the committee's main goal is to ensure that any park activity should not negatively impact the quality of the stream water and ecosystem
- v. Committee members agreed that the Township Board of Supervisors should create a set of guidelines to help the committee respond to new requests

c. Guest Comments

- i. Pat B. of Deer Field inquired if permits or permission were required from the Township to use the park
- ii. **Next Steps: John F. will follow up with the Township Manager**
- iii. Pat B. offered suggestions on behalf of Deer Park regarding the flow of traffic in and around the park. No decisions have been made yet regarding this topic

V. Adjournment

- a. Frank N. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. Michael Z. seconded the motion