

Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

February 25, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Solebury Township Hall

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Frank Nassetta called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.
  - b. The following persons were in attendance: Dan Dupont, Darcy Fair, Barry Fetterolf, John S Francis, Frank Nassetta, and Michael Zolkewitz
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Michael Z. made a motion to approve the January 27, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dan D.
- III. Supervisor Liaison Update / Project Status
  - a. Aquetong Spring Park (ASP) master plan progress
    - i. Simone Collins has completed its current task and has been put on hold as other parts of the master plan are executed, including the restoration of the stream and detail of the trails
    - ii. Princeton Hydro and C. Robert Wynn will continue to move forward
      - 1. NEXT STEPS: Creation of a proposal (featuring designs and specs) which will be presented to the committee & township**
  - b. Township officials met with representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
    - i. The goal of the meeting was to persuade the DEP to allow the township to follow an accelerated permit process for the Stream Restoration
      1. The committee confirmed that a DEP permit is necessary anytime perennial streams being affected
      2. The township plans to widen the tributary to slow down water flow and enhance the filtering potential of the stream for the run off from 202, as well as the water coming under 202 from Fox Run
      3. The township argued that because the stream is only being enhanced (not changed), we should be granted a more expedited permit process;

the DEP appears to be agreeable to this but wish to visit the site prior to their next meeting

**ii. NEXT STEPS: Princeton Hydro will present its proposal to the DEP to see if we qualify for an expedited permit process**

c. Next steps for ASP

i. Tree Removal

1. A request for proposal (RFP) has been submitted regarding the removal of approximately 1000 trees from the park
2. The ASP master plan includes a map that shows where trees currently exist as well as the location of the main trail way; Contractors will use the main trail way when transporting equipment to and from the park
3. Due to the rapidly declining health of the trees, the township would like to see the trees removed sooner rather than later
4. **NEXT STEPS: Once a bidder has been chosen, the committee expressed that they would like the township to alert residents of when the trees will be removed**

ii. Reforestation

1. The committee discussed the importance of a timeline; We would like to know exactly how soon new trees will be planted after dead trees are removed
  - a. Reducing the amount of shade provided by the trees could increase the temperature of the stream, which would have a significant ecological effect
  - b. There was also discussion as to what types of trees and shrubs should be planted to have the most positive ecological effect
2. Princeton Hydro and C. Robert Wynn are both thoroughly involved advising the township on all activities.
3. **NEXT STEPS: The committee expressed that they would like a timeline of when events related to the ASP will occur**

iii. Restoration of Main Stream and Tributary

1. Princeton Hydro will include this in its proposal

2. It was confirmed that fish which were populated in the stream two years ago are approximately 3 inches longer in length; The committee recognized this as a success
  3. The committee discussed the importance of storm water management, which has been accounted for in the ASP master plan
- iv. 202 Trail
    1. Location and design has been established
    2. C. Robert Wynn will include this in their proposal
  - v. Deer Harvesting
    1. EAC confirmed that only two people are hunting on the park property despite the huge deer population in this area
    2. **NEXT STEPS: Board Liaison John F. will investigate why only two people have been granted permission to hunt in this area and report back to committee**
- d. Future Joint Meeting with Parks & Recreation
    - i. The committee is currently focused on the restoration plans (not park design plans), so the meeting has been postponed until our March 2019 meeting
    - ii. The meeting will be informational in nature, and should include the Township Manager and Parks and Recreation Director
    - iii. **NEXT STEPS: The committee will reach out to these administrators and the parks and recreation committee to schedule our next joint meeting**
- IV. Project Messaging Bullet Points
    - a. Darcy F. is continuing to gather information from committee members to build awareness about the ASP
      - i. Goals of the ASP can be found on the first page of the ASP master plan
      - ii. AWA website includes information such as the importance of watersheds, riparian corridors, ecosystems, etc.
    - b. The committee discussed the idea of adding an informational board to the park that includes status updates on the progress of the ASP master plan
    - c. Committee reinforced the idea that the park will maintain a passive recreation status
    - d. **NEXT STEPS: Darcy will meet with committee members individually to collect more information that she can use for future advertising and educational presentations**

V. Adjournment

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