

Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

September 30, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Solebury Township Hall

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Frank Nassetta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - b. Committee members in attendance included Dan Dupont, Darcy Fair, Barry Fetterolf, Frank Nassetta, Michael Zolkewitz, and Board of Supervisors Liaison John Francis. Guests included Nancy Stock-Allen of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Minutes were recorded by Alex Nagy of the Township Administration Team.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Darcy F. made a motion to approve the June 24, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Michael Z.
- III. Supervisor Liaison Project Status Update (See attached ASP Progress Report)
 - a. Tree Removal is complete
 - i. Several logs and stumps were salvaged for stream restoration
 1. Barry F. questioned if some trees were dropped over the stream to aid in the stream restoration; John F. confirmed that several trees were left for this purpose, although many were removed to avoid creating a dangerous environment
 - ii. Township has budgeted \$115K for replanting plan which is being tracked by the Township Manager
 1. Frank N. shared that Trout Unlimited recently spent \$600 to plant 1000 trees as part of an independent project. There are also local nurseries that donate trees every fall because they've grown too large
 2. **NEXT STEPS: Frank N. will reach out to Dennis to discuss alternative planting options and how Trout Unlimited may help.**
 - b. C. Robert Wynn (Engineer) and Princeton Hydro (Contractor) are continuing work on bid documents for stream restoration
 - i. DEP and BCCD verbally agreed to grant a waiver to expedite the permit process, although the Township is still waiting for the approval on paper

- ii. Upon receipt of the waiver, the Township will obtain permits to get the extension on the \$250K grant money; Permitting agencies must provide approval or denial by November 7, 2019
 - iii. Barry F. questioned how much money could be used towards stream restoration; The \$250K in the grant is being used on the tributary, which includes the upper half of the stream
 - iv. Barry F. proposed that the area above the falls could be turned into a fishing spot or community space as part of a future project; The committee decided to discuss this at a later time once the stream restoration is complete
 - c. Princeton Hydro is continuing to monitor the stream, water quality (including measuring fish population) and invasive plants
 - i. Frank N. confirmed that the fish population has continued to increase in size since they were first introduced
 - ii. Michael Z. commented that Princeton Hydro used to share reports and asked if they could resume sharing them with the committee **NEXT STEPS: Alex N. will communicate with the Township Manager to have these reports shared in the future**
 - d. NFWF Grant is available for stormwater, fish habitat and riparian corridor restoration in 2020
 - i. Dan D. questioned if this grant was ascertained and what it includes; **NEXT STEPS: John F. will check with the Township Manager to get more information about this grant**
 - e. TA Trail and Grant are both on target for plan submittal in August 2020 and construction beginning in 2021
 - i. The committee reviewed the latest plans which included a map of the proposed trails throughout the park
- IV. New Business
- a. Future Committee Structure
 - i. At the last meeting, the committee discussed creating a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the future structure of the committee. Michael Z. asked for each member's input

- ii. Frank N. and Michael Z. expressed that they want the park to maintain its status as passive recreation. Stream restoration has been the first step. They are concerned about the health of the stream but are not interested in the next step of building the park's infrastructure
 - iii. Barry F. and Darcy F. both expressed ideas for future recreational events such as fishing events or walks through the park
 - iv. Dan D. confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Committee shares their vision that the park be treated as a passive-use space for the public
 - v. The committee agreed that it's too soon to discuss infrastructure while the stream restoration is ongoing
 - vi. It was agreed by all to maintain the current committee structure and that reorganizing as a subcommittee within Parks & Recreation would not be favored at this time
 - vii. **NEXT STEPS: Michael Z. and Barry F. will draft recommendations communicating that the park's use should not be determined until the stream restoration is complete.**
 - viii. The frequency of the committee's meetings will be discussed in the near future
 - b. Proposal of Aquetong Spring Park Walk (Community Outreach Day – A walk in the park)
 - i. Darcy F. suggested an event to raise awareness of the park; The walk would be open to the community, and could be co-sponsored with the Historical Society
 - ii. **NEXT STEPS: Darcy F. will draft a recommendation to share at the next committee meeting**
 - c. Signage
 - i. Frank N. and Darcy F. expressed that informative signage is essential to the long-term success of the park
 - ii. It was agreed to review potential signage and different opportunities for using it including education, wildlife information, directions etc. This would be something that might move forward in the Spring
- V. Public Comment
- a. Nancy S. questioned if the park will include trails; The committee confirmed that the long-term plan is to connect the park to the Solebury Trail

- b. Nancy S. questioned if the park should be included in the Township's current list of Solebury Parks and Trails. The committee acknowledged it should be advertised as 'Limited Access'.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Darcy F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Barry F. and Michael Z.

ASP Progress Report

September 30, 2019

Report from Township Manager

1. Tree removal is complete. We salvaged a number of logs and stumps for the stream restoration.
2. Wynn and PH are working on the bid documents for the stream restoration they should be complete in the next week or so. The major hurdle continues to be DEP and BCCD we have applied for a waiver but we have not received any permits to date. We need the permits to get the extension on the \$250k grant money. We are hoping to see something from the permitting agencies soon but they must provide approval or denial by November 7th.
3. Permit or not I am asking BOS authorization to bid stream restoration at the Oct 15th meeting. In this way we are ready to bid the project when the permits are issued. We are hoping to do the work in the winter and spring, weather permitting.
4. TA trail and grant are still on target for final plan submittal in August 2020 and construct in 2021.
5. PH continues to monitor the stream and water quality along with fish counts.
6. PH continues to monitor and control invasive plants in the park.
7. Draft 2020 budget \$115,000 for trees.
8. NFWF grant for stormwater, fish habitat and riparian corridor restoration 2020.