

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

January 18, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

**Virtual Meeting**

**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Hanna Howe, Robert McEwan, Kevin Morrissey, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor and Curtis J. Genner Jr. were also in attendance.

Absent: John S. Francis

Due to the rampant increase in COVID-19 cases in Bucks County, including its impact on Township residents, Supervisors and staff, the January 18, 2022 meeting of the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors was held virtually via Zoom.

The recording device was turned on.

**I. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**II. Approval of Bills Payable** – December 16, 2021, December 30, 2021 and January 13, 2022

**Res.2022-20 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe, the list of Bills Payable dated December 16, 2021, December 30, 2021 and January 13, 2022 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes** – December 14, 2021 Meeting and January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting

**Res.2022-21 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the December 14, 2021 Meeting and January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

Executive Session

The Board announced an Executive Session held January 6, 2022 dealing with Personnel and Zoning Matters.

The Board announced an Executive Session held prior to the meeting dealing with Zoning Matters.

Resignation of Joseph Kubiak from the Environmental Advisory Council

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Joseph Kubiak from the Environmental Advisory Council. The Board thanked Mr. Kubiak for his service.

**Res.2022-22 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan the resignation of Joseph Kubiak from the Environmental Advisory Council was unanimously accepted.**

**V. Supervisor Comment**

- Mr. Baum Baicker commented on the vacancies on the Environmental Advisory Council and Alternate member vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board. Residents interested can email their letter of interest and resume to Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary at ccataldi@soleburytp.org.

**VI. Public Comment - No Early Public Comment**

**Mr. Baum Baicker announced a change in the agenda.**

**VII. New Business**

Resolution Approval– Act 537 Sewage Treatment Facility Planning Module Component #4A – Pantera Realty, LLC/Riverview Banquet Facility (6817 Route 202, TMP # 41-028-067-003)

The applicant proposes to build a new wastewater treatment facility on 6817 Route 202 for the banquet, restaurant and bridal suit. Approval of the Planning Module Component #4A is required by the DEP.

**Res. 2022-23 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution approving the Act 537 Sewage Treatment Facility Planning Module and authorizing administration to complete and execute Component #4A – Pantera Realty, LLC/Riverview Banquet Facility (6817 Route 202, TMP # 41-028-067-003), contingent upon the applicant signing the agreement.**

**VIII. Subdivision/Conditional Uses/Land Development**

Subdivision/Land Development - Heritage Senior Living Facility and New Cartwheel Partners (6554 thru 6558 Lower York Road (US Route 202), TMP#'s 41-022-144, 41-022-144-001, 41-022-144-002 and 41-022-153)

Ed Murphy, Greg Glitzer and Chris Chandor presented an overview of the proposed project (copies of which are attached). The Conditional Use, Subdivision and Land Development is to be held at the February 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**IX. Presentation**

2021 Accomplishments

The Board of Supervisors presented the accomplishments for 2021 (copy of which is attached).

Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee – Final Report

Nancy Stock-Allen presented the final report for the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee (copy of which is attached). The Board is to request resident feedback regarding the recommendations made in the final report and discuss more at an upcoming meeting.

**Res.2022-24 – Upon a motion made by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to dissolve the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee with the oversight of the Aquetong Spring Park to be shared between the Environmental Advisory Council and the Parks & Recreation Board.**

**X. New Business**

Bucks County Planning Commission – Planning Service Agreement

Bucks County Planning Commission requested a Planning Service Agreement (copy of which is attached) for providing professional planning services to the Township's Planning Commission.

**Res.2022-25 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Bucks County Planning Commission Planning Service Agreement.**

**XI. Public Comment**

**XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Secretary



Heritage Senior Living  
"Birches at Solebury"  
Perspective from Northeast



8-12-20





8-12-20





8-12-20





8-12-20







8-12-20

## **Solebury Township Achievement Summary – 2021**

### **Introduction**

2021 was another year that was significantly influenced by the pandemic. Throughout this time the Township continued to make adjustments as was done in 2020 to adapt to this new and challenging environment. Regardless of the difficulties Covid presented, Solebury Township staff, resident committee members, consultants and Board of Supervisors worked as best and as flexibly as could be done to provide the support the community has expected from their local government.

During 2021, the Solebury Board of Supervisors addressed over 170 issues. Many of these topics required extensive additional meetings and analysis. The Board of Supervisors met together a minimum of 39 times during the year. The Zoom video interface was an important meeting tool this year. In addition, all Supervisors are liaison to multiple Township Committees which in total met at least 80 times a year. Additionally, Supervisors and Township staff participated in many community and individual resident meetings. Lastly, the Township Administration continued to provide the valuable service of addressing many community matters daily as well as coordinating the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors.

Special mention should be made of the resident volunteer committees, Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee, Deer Committee, Environmental Advisory Council, Historical Architectural Review Board, Land Preservation Committee, Parks & Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Solebury Farm Committee, and Zoning Hearing Board. They continued to provide the foundation of many Township activities and decisions.

Although this report should be much longer to accurately describe all the achievements of those associated with Solebury Township, for readability sake, the following descriptions are a brief summary of accomplishments.

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### **Financial Overview / Bond Rating**

- Moody's again has rated the Township at Aa1 due to its strong financial position that consistently has been improving in recent years.
- The pandemic created an uncertain economic situation for the Township. Consequently, expenditures were reduced, eliminated, or deferred. There are balanced budgets for both 2021 and 2022.

### **Township Administration**

- Solebury Township hired 2 administrative employees to fill 2 existing open positions to assist with the increasingly complicated local government.
- The Township completed the integration of ZOOM in the Main Meeting room as an enhancement to the video equipment that was installed in 2020. This capability allows participants, both in the building and on-line to actively participate in Board of Superiors as well as Committee meetings.
- The Township is paying more vendors electronically to eliminate the need for paper checks. Of approximately 278 regularly used vendors, 114 (41%) have been signed up for ACH or other electronic type payments.
- Continued with permit applications with being available on Solebury's website and are being accepted electronically.

## **Land Preservation**

- The Land Preservation Committee (LPC) has had discussions concerning 5 Solebury properties, 2 of these may be preserved in 2022.
- Capping of a strong year of contacts the LPC hosted a well attended open house, garden gathering for those who have preserved, or are considering preserving, their property.

## **Police Dept.**

- The Police Department,(SPD) successfully completed the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association's Accreditations program and has been re-accredited. The Department will once again go through the process in September 2024. Accreditation is a means to evaluate and improve the SPD's overall performance. Approximately 10% of all PA police agencies have such an accreditation.
- The Township goal is to provide to the community, the 2021 Solebury Police Dept. incident report by 1q 2022.

## **Roads, Bridges & Trails**

- Paved 13 roads with 2,841 tons of blacktop.
- Various bridges were repaired, including stone arch bridges and a steel road grate.
- Ida Cleanup & Restoration - 500 tons of rock & stone placed in washed out areas as well as realignment of Cuttalossa Stream after it left its banks.

## **Park & Recreation Dept.**

- Completed construction of 2 dugouts at Laurel Park softball field.
- Opened 2 pickle ball courts at Laurel Park, with ongoing oversight of court-time among players/users.
- Conducted park and facility site visits and reviews to educate members and residents about Solebury P&R assets, and spark new thinking about their future.

## **Aquetong Spring Park**

- The park project was completed with a grand opening conducted in late spring 2021.
- The 44 acre park contains approximately 2 miles of paved, grass, stone and woodchip walking trails with directional signs. 6 benches have been donated and placed. 150 new trees planted.
- Numerous Solebury Boards of Supervisors, local, regional and state agencies, organizations and government officials have contributed to the success of this project.

## **Deer Management**

- A Drone survey of deer was conducted with 2,054 deer observed. This measures to an estimated 76 head per square mile (27). Expert analysis indicates it should be in the 8-10 head per square mile to support a healthy environment.
- The volunteer hunter program continued, coordinated by the USDA. Approximately 289 deer have been harvested.
- Culling Program RFP's - USDA was selected with the goal of reducing the herd by 1,000 for 2022. The meat will be processed and donated to food banks.

### **Route 202 Corridor**

- The Administration, Township Road Engineering Consultants and 2 Supervisors talked a number of times with the Bucks County Planning Commission to draw attention to Solebury planning needs along the Township's Route 202 corridor. Discussions will continue.

### **Development**

- Reviews continued regarding a variety of development and remodeling applications. The Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board have devoted extensive amount of time and energy with numerous applications, including Heritage Senior Care/New Cartwheel Development site, the Carversville Inn, Riverview Land Development Plan and Solebury School.
- Special mention should be made of the extensive number of meetings by the Zoning Hearing Board to review the Carversville Inn application.

### **New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry**

- The Township is continuing to meet with the DEP regarding the Quarry reclamation and stream restoration of Primrose Creek. The primary focus is the DEP developed 2 year plan comprising the following 3 phases:
  - 1-Dam or outflow structure development
  - 2-Revegetation of quarry area
  - 3-Primrose Creek restoration

### **Sustainability**

- Developed a "Sustainability Matrix" designed as a measuring tool as well as for goals to enable the community to improve energy efficiency. Additional analysis will be performed in 2022 by Township committees before a Board of Supervisor review. The Planning Commission and EAC are leading this effort.
- The EAC is continuing efforts to develop a community outreach and ordinance relative to "single use plastics". The plan is for the Board of Supervisors to review these projects this year.
- The EAC is continuing efforts to progress Rf100 and energy transition plan

### **Historical review**

- The HARB accomplished 9 application reviews:
  - 3 full review applications
  - 6 RRIK applications (Repair and Replacement In-Kind)
- Average HARB response time for review and approval of RRIK applications was less than one day.
- **Farming**  
The Solebury Farm Committee initiated a work plan with Land Trust of Bucks County to provide a "Land Owner – New Farmer" match application on the Land Trust's server.

# Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee Report

## January - December 2021



Aquetong Spring Park

Aquetong Spring

### Report Purpose and Scope

This report is a snapshot of the activities of the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee from January through December 2021. It is not a comprehensive or conclusive representation of the work of any previous committee iteration. It does, however, document this year's committee mission to address cultural and environmental action points suggested in the Aquetong Spring Park Master Plan of 2018.



## **Contents**

I. Committee Information

II. Recommendations in 2021

III. Future Recommendations to address the Master Plan

1. Cultural Conservation

2. Fish Habitat / Trout Population

3. Water and Land Management

4. Trails and Signage

5. Education/ Community Outreach

6. The Bond House

7. The Committee

IV. Conclusion

## **I. Committee Information**

The committee was comprised of 5 members and 3 associate non-voting members.

### **Voting Members**

Dan Dupont

Darcy Fair

Barry Fetterolf - Vice Chair

Nancy Stock-Allen - Chair

Michael Zolkewitz\*

(\*Resigned December 2021, by request not affiliated with this report.)

### **Non voting members**

Patty Bacon

Barbara Blue Jay Michalski

Barbara Zietchick

### **Others**

John Francis, Solebury Supervisor

Dudley Rice, Head of Solebury Parks and Recreation

The committee met in formal meetings on January 25, February 22, March 29, April 19, May 24, June 28, July 26., August 30, October 27 and December 15. All meeting were via Zoom and all minutes recorded on the township web site. <https://www.soleburytp.org/aquetong-spring-advisory-committee>

There were two informal meetings (non-quorum) in August and September to organize the Walk in the Park event and some members of the committee participated in two walking tours of the trails with the Township Manager.





## II. Recommendations Made During 2021

### Formal Recommendations

#### *1. Park Identity Branding*

The committee recommended that the township officially designate the park as a “Nature and Heritage Preserve.” The township approved the recommendation and augmented the entry signage to reflect the new identity.

#### *2. Bond House Designation*

Officially designate the Bond House name to reflect the builders and recognize their contribution to the restoration of the park.

## Aquetong Creek Surveys

We are continually monitoring improvements to the creek environment during this project. Reports from Princeton Hydro (PH) and the Aquetong Watershed Association (AWA) are included below.

Year (Author)	Report
2017 (PH)	November 2017 Water Quality Report December 2017 Planning Report
2018 (PH)	May 2018 Creek Field Survey July 2018 Creek Field Survey
2018 (AWA)	August 2018 Creek Monitoring Report
2019 (PH)	March 2019 Water Quality Report
2020 (PH)	Fall 2020 Creek Monitoring Report

## IIa. Informal Activities/Recommendations in 2021

### 1. *Recommend that the Township resume posting of water reports*

Due to COVID the township was two years behind in posting the reports of Water Quality, Creek Monitoring and Field Surveys. The latest report is Fall 2020. ( Note: The official township liaison to the committee, who previously posted these reports, left in mid-2021.)

### 2. *Trail design discussion with township manager*

The committee accompanied the township manager on one walk through of the park to observe trails created by the Public Works Department

Committee suggestions made:

- Create a spur trail on the crest of the dam
- Create some meadow space/ succession forest near the mill ruins
- Name the trails to reflect the habitat
- Create a trail map

There were two subsequent walks by members to test the signage system.

One more walk with ASP members, Dudley Rice and representatives of Deer Park reviewed the property border with Deer Park and discussed ways to prevent park visitors from entering Deer Park. Signage was proposed.



### Young tree, reminder of life, is placed at an ancient spring

*Sacred Lenape place for tribal ceremonies*

Barbara Bluejay Michalski prepared the earth this month for planting of an Eastern red cedar tree next to Aquetong Spring. The tree replaces a decayed cedar that had been planted by her grandfather, Chief Whippoorwill, Bill Thompson, three decades earlier.

The cedar and a sugar maple were special additions to Aquetong Spring Park to fulfill a request by the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania for use in tribal ceremonial practices. Aquetong Spring, a site of Lenape activity for centuries before the Europeans arrived, continues to play an important role in tribal ceremonies. Michalski, who is a liaison between the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee, blessed the trees on April 19, just prior to the park's closing for several months of construction.

Attending the planting ceremony were members of the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee, Township Manager Dennis Carney (who arranged the logistics) and Peter Schwalm and staff of P.S. Landscaping in Solebury.

According to the Solebury Township Historical Society, "The spring known as Aquetong by the original inhabitants of the land, the Lenape, and known as Ingham Springs by European settlers is located just off Lower Mountain Road in Solebury Township. The spring water that flows at the rate of 2,000 gallons per minute was used to power mills along the Aquetong Creek. In 1870 a dam was built to create the lake, and now that dam has been removed and the creek will return to its natural, pre-1870 state."



**Preparing the fertile earth**

Barbara Bluejay Michalski prepared the earth for planting of an Eastern red cedar tree next to Aquetong Spring. The tree replaces a decayed cedar that had been planted by her grandfather, Chief Whippoorwill, Bill Thompson.

*April 2021  
Barbara Bluejay Michalski plants a cedar tree next to the spring. Replacing a previous cedar planted by her grandfather, the new tree will be used for Lenape ceremonies. A sugar maple was also planted near the Bond House for seasonal ceremonies.*



### Hepatitis B Foundation takes on new leadership

*VP Chari Cohen will succeed Timothy Block as president*

The Hepatitis B Foundation has announced that Chari Cohen, senior vice president, will become president of the foundation, effective in July.

Timothy M. Block, president, CEO and co-founder of the organization, shared the news at the International HBV meeting in Toronto, which was organized by the Hepatitis B Foundation.

"Stepping away from the presidency of the foundation is much easier for me knowing that Chari will be my successor," Dr. Block said. "She brings amazing passion and commitment to our mission. Her energy and enthusiasm make her a natural leader and a global authority on hepatitis B, hepatitis D and liver cancer public health research, policy and advocacy."

Block has been president since launching the organization in 1991 with his wife, Joan Block, and Jasine and

*Continued on page C7*

### Aquetong Spring Park is officially open to the public

*Dudley Rice Solebury Township Parks and Recreation*

Solebury Township hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Aquetong Spring Park on Friday, Sept. 24, to mark the official opening of the park.



**Lenape prayer**

Lenape Chief Chuck Gentlemoon DeMund offered a Lenape prayer during the formal opening ceremony for Aquetong Spring Park on Route 202 in Solebury Township, site of an ancient spring where members of the Lenape Tribe had a village. More photos on page C1

*September 24, 2021  
Lenape Chief Chuck Gentlemoon offers prayers at the opening of the park. Members of the committee are exploring how to obtain the prayer in written form for permanent display at the park.*

### III.1 Cultural Conservation

*Native American representatives will be engaged during the park design and development processes – especially regarding treatments to the revered spring site.*

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Patty Bacon, committee member and representative of Deer Park, facilitated connections to the Lenape of Pennsylvania. Chief Chuck Gentlemoon suggested Barbara Bluejay Michalski attend meetings to report back to the tribal council. Ms. Michalski began attending meetings and advised the committee on measures to assure that Lenape interests were respected, especially at the spring site.

The Township manager fulfilled a request from the committee that a cedar tree be planted by the spring and a sugar maple planted elsewhere for use in future Lenape ceremonies. The cedar planting was held with committee members and Solebury administration staff present. The event was memorialized and publicized in *The Bucks County Herald*, with the purpose of highlighting both the Lenape heritage at the site and to raise the profile of the park with the public.

### Recommendation

*The committee suggests that the Township continue to liaison with the Lenape representatives.*

**Recommendation Matrix Chart 2**

Element #	Element Name	Purpose	Partners (To Be Confirmed)	Discipline	Budget	Horizon (phases) Phase 1 (1-3 Yrs) Phase 2 (4-6 Yrs) Phase 3 (7-10 yrs)	Funding Sources
12	Core Habitat Restoration	Native Habitat Restoration Forest Canopy Management				Future Phase	TBD
13	Transportation Trail Phase 2	Community Communications Public Access	Penn DOT			Future Phase	TBD
14	Internal-walking Trails	Access Education	PA DCNR			Future Phase	TBD
15	Bond (Judy) House Re-use	Education Public Access User Services				Future Phase	TBD
16	Native American Ceremony / Programs	Cultural Education	Solebury Township Historical Society / Lenape Nation			Future Phase	TBD
17	In-stream Play Lab	Education Recreation	AWA School District			Future Phase	TBD
18	Outdoor Classroom	Education	AWA School District			Future Phase	TBD
19	Outdoor Lab Water Play Station	Education	AWA School District			Future Phase	TBD
20	Ingham House Trail Head	Community Connections Public Access				Future Phase	TBD
21	Environment / Industrial History Signage	Education	Solebury Township Historical Society (TBC)			Future Phase	TBD
22	Restoration Education	Education	Colleges (TBC)			Phase 2	TBD
23	Water System Education	Education	AWA (TBC) Colleges (TBC)			Phase 2	TBD
24	Fishing Education	Education Recreation	AWA (TBC) Trout Unlimited (TBC)			Phase 3	TBD

ST - Solebury Township, DCNR - PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, DCED - PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development, NFWF - National Fish and Wildlife Fund, PA DOT/TA - PA Dept of Transportation / Transportation Alternative, AWA - Aquetong Watershed Association, ASPAC - Aquetong Spring Park Action Committee

**III. 2 Fishing Education**

*The public access and services to be included in the Aquetong Spring Park will be passive, meaning that recreational programming will be nature oriented activities and will not include organized sports fields; and will be designed to advance the primary goal of conserving the headwater aquatic habitat.*

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The committee *does not* endorse fishing in the park.

However addressing an educational recommendation (left chart, #24) for Fishing Education would help educate the next generation on the merits of habitat protection and fish conservation.

**Recommendation**

*The committee suggests embarking on a study of the lower part of the park (below the dam compromise) to ascertain if, through minor stream design, we could create an area to teach fly fishing to young children (Limited to children under 12, under supervision and strictly catch and release, barbless hook).*



A native Brook Trout that was introduced into Aquetong Creek by Trout Unlimited in 2017. Photo courtesy of Joseph Mihok

*Images from the Master Plan.*



### III. 3 Water and Land Management

*The primary goal of restoration and conservation of aquatic habitat will serve as the overarching principle for all decision making.*

Page 3 Aquetong Spring Park Strategic Master Plan

1. Aquetong Spring Park is:

- A landscape of ecological importance, serving as both a refuge for rare flora and fauna, a seed bank for native flora, as a landscape to help mitigate the effects of a changing climate.
- A natural resource that provides valuable ecological services to the surrounding watershed.
- A vital protective buffer for a High Quality Cold Water Fisheries.
- A state recognized wild trout stream

#### **Recommendation**

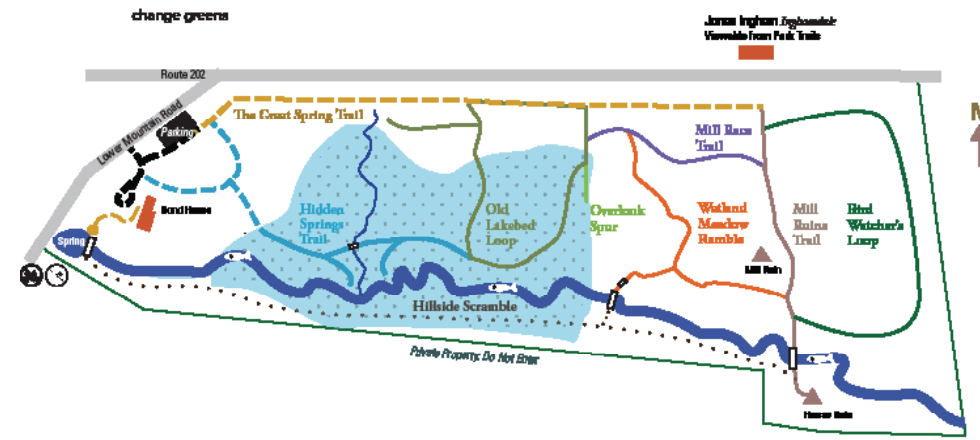
*The committee recommends that Solebury Township formally recognize ASP as a Nature and Heritage preserve rather than only as a subtext of the park as described by motion in the BOS meeting dated 6/15/2021*

[https://www.soleburytwp.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif1221/f/minutes/bos\\_minutes\\_06.15.21.pdf...](https://www.soleburytwp.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif1221/f/minutes/bos_minutes_06.15.21.pdf...)

2. Landscape and hydrology of the former lake bed has changed since PH's first wetland delineation. Given the appearance of subterranean springs within the park, and subsidence of former lake sediments, *a new wetland delineation study is warranted* to help current land and park managers maintain the landscape, both from an invasive species perspective, a conservation of rare species perspective, and a future restoration perspective. (<https://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/>)

#### **Recommendation**

*Perform a final wetland delineation study*



**Aquetong Spring Park Trails and Features**

Please remain on the trails to protect the evolving plant life emerging from the still-settling lakebed and to preserve hillside soil integrity.

Swimming and wading (human or animal) is not allowed in the spring. Please help protect the ecology of this natural feature and its importance for sacred Lenape ceremonies.

The trail system in Aquetong Spring Park has varied surfaces: ADA-compliant paved, as well as easy to moderate non-ADA-compliant loose gravel, wood chips, and mowed lawn trails. Additionally the Hillside Scramble is a dirt path on steep slopes with exposed tree roots. Please explore at your level of comfort.

— ADA compliant  
 . . . . . Unknown surface, steep slopes marked by white blazes on trees  
 Old Lakebed location

- ▲ Mill ruin, House ruin
- 🐟 Trout Habitat
- 🌉 Bridge
- 🐕 Dogs must be leashed and dog owners must clean up after their pets in all park locations.
- 🚫 No humans or dogs allowed to swim in the spring.



**III. 4 Trails and Signage**

The inner walking trails will be designed to deliver park users to points of education and interpretation while protecting fragile ecosystem areas such as wetlands, riparian edges and steep slopes. Bringing people into Aquetong Spring Park and helping them to understand the natural systems and the human stewardship interventions is critical to engaging the public as active partners in the success of the restoration project.

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During the year 2021 the walking trail construction was completed and two bridges were erected for easy stream crossings under the direction of the Township Manager. The ASAC subcommittee specifically named to help visitors understand the features of the park's many habitats.

**Trail names**

- Hidden Springs
  - Hillside Scramble
  - Mill Ruins
  - Mill Race
  - Bird Watchers Loop
  - Wetland Meadow Ramble
  - Old Lakebed Loop
  - The Great Spring Trail
- (The name "The Great Springs Trail" reflects the designation of what is now route 202 during the earliest days of settlement.)
- Other markers designated *Inghamdale* and the spring location.

**Trail Signage**

51 signs were designed and installed as part of a color coded system. Printed on weather resistant plaques, the expected life of these plaques is 8-10 years and will need to be replaced depending on weathering conditions. (This is average for most park signs in public parks. Only expensive bronze signs are permanent).

**Additional Signage to come: Scheduled for spring and summer of 2022.**

**#1: Map Signs**

These signs will be an environmental method to eliminate the need for paper maps. Estimated costs

**#2: “Welcome” Sign**

To will be erected at the entrance of the park trails in early Spring 2022. Research for a greeting, historical explanations and imagery are in progress.

**6 (approx) interpretive signs** will be researched, written and designed in late spring 2022.

The signs will explain these sites in the park:

1. The Bond house
2. Inghamdale
3. The history of the fishery and current trout habitat
4. The dam and lake history
5. The industrial ruins and
6. The wetland habitat.

**Recommendation**

*The committee recommends that current Trails and Signage Subcommittee of the ASAC continue the research and design development for the interpretive signage under the direction of Parks and Recreation Director, Dudley Rice.*



# Join us for “A Walk in the Park”

## Aquetong Spring Park

Rte 202 & Lower Mountain Road

October 17th  
from 1-4 pm

An outdoor open house to celebrate the nature and heritage of Solebury's newest addition to the Township Park System. This event is co-hosted by the Solebury Township Historical Society & the Community Outreach group on the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.



### Please join us for these activities

- Learn about the **engineering, construction and restoration** of this special site.
- Examine some of the **mini-habitats** that emerged from the removal of the dam.
- Meet members of the **Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania** and learn about the role Aquetong Spring played in pre-colonial Lenni Lenape Culture.
- Discover the **historical roles of Aquetong Spring** in the economy & development of the Township from the colonial period into independence & nationhood.
- Hear about the history of **aquaculture** in the former 15-acre lake and the efforts to reintroduce native trout into the restored stream habitat.
- Talk to an expert about the birds and animals that live in the Park
- Check out the different trees and plants that grow in our Park.
- Learn about the **Bonds** who built a home and rescued the spring from dereliction.
- Meet members of the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee and township supervisors who are interested in hearing **your feedback** on the park as well as your suggestions on how the township might best utilize the Bond House.
- **Pack a picnic and a blanket, and put on your walking shoes** to explore the park by wandering the newly opened trails.

### A Note on Parking:

Public parking will be on Ingham Road. Please watch for the police officers and traffic volunteers who will guide you. We are able to park a maximum of 100 cars at a time.



### III. 5 Education/ Community Outreach

*Bringing people into Aquetong Spring Park and helping them to understand the natural systems and the human stewardship interventions is critical to engaging the public as active partners in the success of the restoration project. The priority “recreation” actions of creating community connections to the park, providing education opportunities, and ensuring that only passive recreation activities are recommended ...*

Page 5 Aquetong Spring Park Strategic Master Plan

“A Walk in the Park” Community Day was held on October 17, 2021, 1-4. Spearheaded by Dr. Darcy Fair, the event was a joint venture between the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee and the Historical Society of Solebury.

Tents were erected for: Welcome, History of the Site, The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, Water and Land Management, and Animals of the park. Michale Roush, former resident of the Bond House, gave slide presentations of his photography on the property. Participants included members of the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee, the Historical Society of Solebury, The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, Aquetong Spring Watershed, Wild Birds Unlimited. 8 High school students from New Hope Solebury Key Club assisted at the event. Approximately 250 visitors attended. Future suggestions for community outreach include:

- Work to maintain and enhance the liaison with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania.
- Continue to gather site related information and artifacts from Mike Rouse, former inhabitant of the Bond House.
- Develop educational programs that relate to the particular habitats and history of the park. ie., Youth Fishing program, Summer nature camp, Interpretive tours of the history and the environment.
- If the community desires to form a private “Friends of Aquetong Spring Park,” or could work in conjunction with the Township to fund raise for improvement projects and/or fund educational programs.

### Recommendation

*The committee recommends that the Township encourage the continuation of community engagement.*



### III. 6 The Bond House

*Zone 1 is the “cultural landscape” zone where much of the intensive public programming elements will occur. The zone 1 area was formerly used as a private residence for many years and is already “disturbed.” Focusing cultural activities in Zone 1 allows disturbances to be minimized within the core restoration areas and will protect the emerging aquatic habitat.*

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*There is a space to provide educational opportunities around the spring source area. An outdoor waterplay/ lab station might be developed on a creek side platform on site. Demonstration gardens can provide mowed lawn alternatives and native plant educational space.*

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*Aquetong Spring Park already provides many unique educational opportunities for users. As restoration and conservation efforts continue, and the park becomes more heavily used, it is important to balance human uses with the conservation of this unique re-emerging ecosystem as a living laboratory for exploration, education and scientific research. Signage and integrated outdoor labs and teaching venues will be included in the strategic plan for the site to inform the interested passerby to the rich industrial and environmental history, as well as, environmental processes and stewardship.*

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Between the Bond House and the stream is an old fire circle with gravel cover. This area would lend itself to an outdoor classroom, a resource for schools, clubs and individuals— bird watching groups, walking clubs, story telling, and historical talks and trail tours by trained guides. A number of seats, and a lockable teaching board would be all that is necessary. Funds can be obtained through grant proposals from entities such as the PennDot Green Space Grants.

#### 1. Recommendation

***The committee recommends that a grant be pursued to develop an outdoor classroom.***

The Bond House is an attractive old house with the potential to be a valuable community asset. Some of the space will be Designated for township storage but the main rooms on the first floor should be cleaned and repaired for use.

**Suggestions for the Bond House (post roof repair and renovations)**

1. Restrooms should be installed as soon as sufficient grant money is obtained or the township has funds
2. After the Bond House has been renovated: The Township could develop a system to lend out the space for special events (Such as the recent Walk in the Park) Outside groups are already using the park for walks, bird watching and Informal teaching and spiritual activities. Activities that do not relate to the park habitat or history are not encouraged.

- Special event talks relating to the park history and habitat
- Changing displays of historical artifacts relating to the site ie. Maps, arrow head collections, flora, etc.
- Install a small permanent set of interpretive panels as an exhibit about the park.
- Storage of all artifacts that relate to the house and site.

**2. Recommendation**

*The committee recommends that the Township explore the potential for the Bond House to be used for community education and events related to the park.*

### III. 7 The Committee Future

It is recommended that the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee dissolve.

#### **Recommendation**

*The committee recommends that the park oversight fall under two of the Township committees.*

*a. The waters and watershed issues be placed under the Environmental Advisory Committee*

*b. All other matters in the park fall under Parks and Recreation.*



*The great blue heron, 11.28.2021*

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The committee would like to recognize the hard work of those organizations and individuals that have participated over the last decade.

Aquetong Spring Park is an extremely popular park that opened to a season of tremendous use. The parking lots are routinely full. The trails are heavily trafficked.

Informal surveys at the “Walk in the Park” event revealed that the community is uniformly satisfied with the park and would encourage the Board of Supervisors to develop more such sites, especially emphasizing more walking trails. To this end, the committee encourages the Township to continue to link all possible trail connections between Aquetong Spring Park and the trails along the Delaware River.

This report is respectfully submitted by Nancy Stock-Allen, December 16, 2021.