

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 1, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, John S. Francis, Vice-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 was also in attendance.

The recording device was turned on.

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

II. Approval of Bills Payable – February 24, 2022

Res.2022-39 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Ms. Howe, the list of Bills Payable dated February 24, 2022 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2022 Work Session and February 15, 2022 Meeting

Res.2022-40 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to add the January 6, 2022 priorities matrix, with changes, to the January 6, 2022 Work Session meeting minutes.

Res.2022-41 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the Minutes of the January 6, 2022 Work Session were unanimously approved with the inclusion of the Priorities Matrix.

Res.2022-42 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the February 15, 2022 Meeting were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

Executive Session

The Board announced an Executive Session held February 23, 2022 dealing with Personnel Matters.

V. Supervisor Comment – No Supervisor Comment

VI. Public Comment – No Early Public Comment

VII. New Business

Resolution to Authorize Dennis H. Carney to Execute the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Application

The Statewide Local Share Account grant application for U.S. Route 202 (Lower York Road) and Lower Mountain Road intersection improvements includes a resolution that required adoption by the Board of Supervisors. The estimated grant amount is \$300,000.00, not to exceed \$400,000.00. There is no Township match.

Res.2022-43 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Resolution authorizing Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager and Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary to execute all documents and agreements between Solebury Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Aquetong Spring Park - Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee Recommendations

At the January 18, 2022 meeting the Board of Supervisors made a motion to dissolve the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee (ASAC) with the oversight of the Aquetong Spring Park (ASP) to be shared between the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and the Parks & Recreation Board (P&R). The Board of Supervisors requested a period for resident feedback prior to voting on the recommendations made in the ASAC final report.

The recommendations made by the ASAC are as follows:

1. That the Township continue to liaison with the Lenape representatives.
2. Embark 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).
3. Perform a final wetland delineation study.
4. The current Trails and Signage Subcommittee of the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee continue research and design development for the interpretive signage under the direction of Parks and Recreation Director, Dudley Rice.
5. The Township encourage the continuation of community engagement.
6. A grant be pursued to develop an outdoor classroom.
7. The Township explore the potential for the Bond House to be used for community education and events related to the park.
8. The park oversight falls under two of the Township committees:
 - a. The water and watershed issues be placed under the Environmental Advisory Council
 - b. All other matters in the part be placed under the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mr. Francis gave an overview of past recommendations by the ASAC. Mr. Francis read the resident feedback that was received (copy of which is attached).

Mr. Morrissey commented on the balance of the park.

Ms. Howe questioned how the Township anticipates to maintain the relationship with Lenape representatives. Mr. Francis advised that the communication with the Lenape is established and members of Parks and Recreation Board continue to have connections with Lenape representatives.

Barbara Zietchick, resident, commented the following utilizing the Zoom Chat feature:

- Does it take a grant to make Lower Mountain Road one way to prevent difficulty in entering the street from route 202?
- Is it possible to initiate a traffic study of Lower Mountain Road?

Mr. Carney advised that the grant being applied for is to conduct a traffic study.

John DeAndrea, resident, commented on the dog waste left at the park and garbage collecting along U.S. Route 202. Mr. DeAndrea commented on the park trails.

Mr. Carney commented on the Environmental Advisory Council's yearly trash cleanup event. Mr. Carney commented on the evaluation of the new trails over the years.

Mr. Carney recommended that the Board of Supervisors wait a few years to allow the park to settle before completing another wetland study.

Ms. Howe asked if additional signage is needed regarding trash. Mr. Carney commented that additional temporary signage can be added. Mr. Francis asked if other parks experience an issue with dog waste. Mr. Carney advised that the issue is only seen at ASP.

Ms. Howe commented on the possibility of volunteer efforts from local organizations regarding trash clean up at the park.

Mr. McEwan asked if a low fence could be installed along the roadway to collect debris. Mr. Carney commented that the fence and debris could cause a dam changing the flow of water off the roadway.

Shannon Sanderson, resident, commented the following utilizing the Zoom Chat feature:

- Thank you for picking up litter.

Barry Fetterolf, resident, commented on ASAC objectives. Mr. Fetterolf expressed support for teaching fly fishing to children and suggested the use of hookless flies.

Mr. Morrissey requested that the Environmental Advisory Council and Parks & Recreation Board Chairs share feedback regarding the consideration of teaching of fly fishing to children at ASP.

Res.2022-44 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to approve the recommendations made in the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee’s Final Report with the amendment of the recommendation to embark 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) being placed on hold while it is considered by the Environmental Advisory Council who will create and present a proposal as they deem fit.

VIII. Supervisor Comment – No Supervisor Comment

IX. Public Comment

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary

RESOLUTION 2022-43

**A RESOLUTION OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY,
AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A
STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT APPLICATION FOR
SR 202 (LOWER YORK ROAD) AND LOWER MOUNTAIN ROAD
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

Be it RESOLVED, that Solebury Township of the County of Bucks hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Account grant, with a total funding authorization not to exceed \$400,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority, to be used for project design and development of intersection improvements at Lower York Road (SR 202) and Lower Mountain Road.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Dennis Carney, Township Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between Solebury Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Catherine Cataldi, duly qualified Secretary of Solebury Township, County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting held on March 1, 2022 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of Solebury Township and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of Solebury Township, this 1st day of March, 2022.

Solebury Township
Name of Applicant

Bucks
County


Township Secretary



February 4, 2022

Mr. Dennis Carney, Manager
Solebury Township
3092 Sungan Road
P.O. Box 139
Solebury, PA 18963

Re: Aquetong Watershed Association (AWA) comments on the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee (ASAC) Final Report January – December 2021

Dear Mr. Carney:

The AWA thanks the Township for seeking feedback to the Board of Supervisors on the ASAC Final Report January – December 2021. This letter serves to provide our feedback on the report. We also want to provide our perspective on what still needs to be done to protect and promote the natural value of the property known as the Aquetong Spring Park (ASP).

Background

Solebury Township Resolution No. 2015-93 formed the ASAC on June 21, 2015. The advisory committee served to make recommendations to both the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Township Manager in developing the property acquired by the Township into a passive recreational park. In addition, the committee was charged to make recommendations concerning the uses of existing buildings, new improvements, and the overall reclamation and restoration of the former lake and dam area. Furthermore, the ASAC was charged to suggest passive recreational uses for the property to be designated as "Aquetong Spring Park".

The ASAC consisted of a panel of five voting individuals from the community whose membership was comprised of the following:

- One member from the Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Committee
- One member from the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council
- One member from the Aquetong Watershed Association
- Two members representing the Solebury Township residents at large

Of the original five members, one member was also a member of Bucks County Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

P.O. Box 504, New Hope, PA 18938
www.aquetongwatershed.org
(215) 862-7250



It was resolved that the committee act in an advisory role only, making annual recommendations directly to Solebury Township's BOS liaison to be acted upon under the discretion of the BOS.

The ASAC at its inception adopted the following vision for Aquetong Spring Park:

- To restore Aquetong Creek as a cold-water system while developing recreational opportunities.
- To protect natural, historic, and scenic resources of the park for future generations and to expand park and open space through the introduction of new natural and recreational facilities.

Given this vision and these objectives, the ASAC developed the following priorities in its approach to its decision-making, planning and advising:

- To preserve the water quality and restore the ecological integrity of Aquetong Creek and surrounding landscape,
- To provide public use for both educational and recreational activities,
- To create local and regional partnerships and catalyze community engagement.

In 2018, the ASAC, working with the consulting firm Simone Collins, created an Aquetong Spring Park Strategic Master Plan. At the November 20, 2018 BOS meeting, the plan was presented and approved by the BOS (Resolution 2018-144).

Comments on the Recommendations made in the ASAC Final Report

A. *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. (page 17)*

The AWA supports recognizing the park as a Nature and Heritage Preserve. In addition, the AWA proposes Solebury Township formally adopt a resolution recognizing the biological importance and the cultural significance of the park. The AWA believes this resolution would better protect the property's passive character and long-term preservation as an ecological asset to Solebury Township.

We specifically recommend that such resolution recognize the Township property as:

- 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

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- a vital protective buffer for a High Quality Cold Water Fisheries
- a state recognized wild trout stream
- a vital protective buffer for migratory birds and wildlife
- a public land resource for passive recreation and educational opportunities
- an area with significant historical and cultural heritage
- a place sacred to the Lenape Nation
- a Nature and Historic Preserve to be protected for future generations to appreciate, enjoy, respect and value.

B. Perform a final wetland delineation study (page 17)

The AWA supports performing another wetland delineation study. In addition to the benefits listed in the report, the delineation can also be used as a guide for future tree planting efforts.

C. The committee recommends that the Township encourage the continuation of community engagement. (page 23)

The AWA is proud to have been a member of the ASAC since its inception. The AWA, as a stakeholder in this community, will continue to engage with the Solebury Township and others to protect and preserve ASP.

D. The committee recommends that the park oversight fall under two of the Township committees. (page 29)

- 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 AWA concurs with this plan. We believe land management should be placed under the responsibility of the Township administration with oversight by the EAC. Additionally, we strongly recommend the Township continue to outsource land management and monitoring to professional land management consultants.

E. 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). (page 15)

The AWA believes it is important to focus on the ecological needs of the creek and native trout population before recreational activities.



The AWA, formed in 2007, is an all-volunteer non-profit membership organization that partners with residents, public officials, and other environmental non-profits to protect, preserve, and restore the natural resources of the Aquetong watershed. Over the years, the association has worked diligently to be an informed and experienced advocate in helping educate residents on good water practices while leading programs to restore riparian buffers and protect the area's precious water resources.

Sincerely,

Jade Greene
Director and President

Cc: The Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township

P.O. Box 504, New Hope, PA 18938
www.aquetongwatershed.org
(215) 862-7250

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Cc:
Subject: Final ASAC Report feed back Thursday,
Date: January 20, 2022 5:56:49 PM

Hello Solebury Twp Supervisors and Dennis,

As a property owner within the township I voted against this project from the start. It was and is a complete waste of our tax dollars for the few twp residence to use and more outsiders to abuse and us pay for.

The township is mandated to provide protection to it's residents such as police, fire and ems.

It is my strong suggestion and opinion to sell off the property and use it to employ a full time emergency service group to handle fire and ems services for the residents. It's only a matter of time before the dwindling numbers of New Hope Eagle and Midway fire companies will be unable to turn out the required numbers to safely protect the residents and visitors as mandated by NFPA and other codes and laws.

The supervisors and current township manager who came for PFD are blind to their duty to protect. Dennis is affraid of the supervisors in my opinion because like our past president of our great country only want to protect themselves and their properties by thinking, I live here now and I don't want anyone else to move in or grow the tax base. You are all shirking your duties and you all know it!

As the past fire chief of New Hope, which I stepped down knowing that the currupted views of the township supervisors (most of you) and the opposition I ran up against at Station 46 I have resigned myself to fight you all with fact and laws and nothing to do with the volunteers.

Supervisors and the current twp manager care little for their charged duties and more about clouding the fact that if the volunteers were to close shop, you the twp would have to provide fire and ems coverage with a paid department. Coming from the biggest emergency sercice provider in the world, the US Government my job as a fire chief was to protect and serve those that defend America. Yours is to provide the funds to insure the FDs get that funding. Day time responses are down for volunteers all over the county and USA.

Sell the property and invest in starting a paid/volunteer emergency services department before you all find yourself behind the the curve.

Your fire marshal position needs to be full time paid so to protect the businesses and property owners but you all look the other way. The current FM is the fire marshal full time paid for Doylestown so where do you think his loyalties are? Use monies from the sale to hire a full time FM that puts Solebury 1st.

You all have become complacent and with that comes trouble. Wait till you call 9-1-1 and FD or ems is delayed and you wife, child or grandchild dies because of your failure to recognize whats clearly in front of you. I sent you Bucks County Report on the fire service when I was chief, not one of you reached out to me or commented. So I as do you realy care? If its not spoken about its out of your mind. Piss poor wau to operate isn't it!

You spend our tax dollars like its your own. Put the facts to the tax payers and lay out the facts. Have a park that eats money out of the budget or give them a service that protects them.

The volunteers are a dying breed. Training is poor at best compaired to a combination FD or full time paid department. Your child has a medical emergency or you home catches fire at 10am in the morning. 4 to 6 fire departments are dispatched to get the required numbers of fires responders to your home or business to render aid. But now you wait 5 minutes to crew up a truck, then respond to your address. In three to five minutes in a fire, your child is in her/his room are dead from smoke inhalation before the truck even arrives.

I proved this to Station 46/64 executive board that 2 to 4 firefighters on duty 24/7 make a difference to save property and lives. Do you care? If you do why spend money to maintain a park when it can be used to fund something that

matters and is needed. The 3 volunteer companies servicing the twp have more then 3 million dollars in their relief funds and dont want to spend it because they think its their money. Sad, real sad when a department can provide a service that benifits its community instead of banking it.

Present the facts to form a Combination department manned 24/7 with qualified and trained responders. The tax payers will praise you for it. Midway, Upper Makefield and others in the county are all moving in that direction now. Midays first truck out has volunteers with the average age of 60+. New Hope is a little better but they are junior members or newbees with little to no experience or little continuous training which is needed in today's world of firefighting.

Sell the park on a referendum and invest it in the Emergency Services. Pay now or pay dearly later with loss of lives n property. Each of you are culpable for your lack of foresight, judgement and action.

READ THE REPORT I SENT YOU ALL AND READ IT LIKE YOUR CHILDS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

What will a park do to save a life?

Please see that all supervisors get to read this. This has not been posted to social media or local papers but it should!

Remember one thing, you asked for comments and what you ask for is not always right. You all should know, each of you learn from mistakes if your open minded.

Jim Becker
Fire Officer IV
Inspector II
CFI

Sent from Sprint Phone

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Subject: ASAC Report
Date: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:30:04 AM

Hello all --

I have to admit, I watched the development of Aquetong Spring Park with skepticism... the park sign was put up way too soon! The expense of eliminating the dead trees! However, it is a lovely place to stroll and enjoy.

That being said, I am now concerned about the Bond House. We are a small township, with a decreasing population in children (if the census reports I read are accurate). I've listened to The Library talk about bigger space. I've seen an architect's plan for developing the space in front of The Giant to promote more "community". Although my kids are grown, I've listened to people talk about how expensive our High School facility was to remodel and how new fields/stadium are costly.

I believe that all of these needs should be considered together. What spaces are truly needed and for what purpose in our community? We have the Audobon Nature Center not too far away, and it would be silly to duplicate their efforts at Aquetong Spring Park! I don't think all of their programs are widely subscribed to, why should we develop more "if we build it they will come" facilities?

There's no "Recreation Center" per se in our township. Organizations use the Fire House hall or the high school when they can. Private gyms are an option. It would be nice if there was a facility that allowed drop-in local classes... not just "nature" and spring/trout education. Why not there? One large room -- yoga? occasional line dancing? book club? who knows. But it should not be just Audobon Part II.

Thanks for reaching out to the community.

Sincerely,
Audrey Hughes

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Subject: ASAC report, solicited feedback
Date: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:27:33 PM

Kudos to the committee and the township for creating this park and providing leadership direction for the future. If I was to add anything to the report it might be some comments about existing community organizations and their potential interest in the park for use and study. For instance the Bucks County Audobon Society and the Solebury Historical Society or the schools could spearhead appropriate community awareness and use of the park by scheduling events focused on or at the park. Might it help for the Township to have a list of such organizations which might receive priority scheduling for using the park ? Just an idea that might help shepherd the stated goals in the committee report.

Tom Lyon

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Subject: The Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:25:14 AM

Please add trash cans for dog waste removal and trash after a picnic.
Thank you.

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ALL THE BEST,
MELANIE GANIM

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Subject: Citizen Comments on Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee report
Date: Thursday, February 03, 2022 10:52:17 AM

To: Solebury Board of Supervisors

In response to the recent request by the BOS for citizen comments on the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee report, here are my comments:

1. First, I'd like to thank all of the recent and past members of the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee for their service and contributions to guide the development and protection of the park's natural and cultural heritage. The park is the result of three decades of a sustained community effort envisioning future use, raising funds and acquiring the property, evaluating options to take down or repair the dam, taking down the dam, planning a trail and restoration program, and making it all happen. This is a major success for Solebury, for Bucks County and the entire region, and is an excellent demonstration of Solebury's 'constancy of purpose'.
2. As one of the supervisors who voted to create the ASAC, I am happy to see that the committee wrapped up its work rather than prolonging its activities in perpetuity. I agree with the recommendation to transfer responsibilities to the EAC and Parks & Recreation, which are standing committees within the township.
3. I agree with most of the major recommendations within the report and appreciate the work that went into reaching consensus on them.
4. I have a concern about certain parts of Recommendation III. 2. Fishing Education:
 - a. I support prohibiting fishing in the park for the foreseeable future. We have taken a major step, with the outstanding leadership of Bucks County Trout Unlimited, to establish a native brook trout population. I believe we should be systematically monitoring the fish population and receive some professional assurance that the brook trout are fully established before considering conditions that could allow fishing within the park. We should also resist any calls for stocking of other trout species, which could easily outcompete and supplant the native brook trout population. We have to remember that those precious and increasingly rare brook trout were sourced from remote tributaries of the Lehigh River, in areas with conditions that completely blocked access and predation by brown and rainbow trout.
 - b. As a fly fisher, I like the idea of teaching that skill to young people, yet I do not think that the lower section of the Aquetong is an appropriate teaching area. I'm mindful of the need for open casting space, and in fact, my starter education took place at Orvis's trout fishing school in Vermont. Orvis's facility is a good-sized pond, where there were no obstructions to snag lines and hooks. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to teach fly fishing in the small pond area near Route 202, where warm-water Sunfish are the dominant species.
5. Under III.3 Land and Water Management, I support the recommendation that a new wetland delineation study be conducted. The report mentions an 'invasive species perspective', yet makes no recommendations on the need to manage and mitigate the continued expansion of invasive species. For example, with the felling of hundreds of

ash trees, the resulting increase in light has created an even greater explosion of stiltgrass throughout the park, and, with foot traffic, it is spreading to the forest area on the Deer Park side of the creek. As well, Canadian thistle is all over the former lake bed area. While the township has taken steps to control Phragmites, we have a long way to go to manage invasives and enable reestablishment of diverse native plants.

6. The 2018 Aquetong Spring Park Strategic Master Plan remains a foundational blueprint, defining a series of implementation steps for habitat restoration, user improvements, trail development, trout habitat, reforestation, and invasive species management. I suggest that the master plan be used to create a key measurement/status chart-- a graphic summary of the major strategic initiatives, goals and progress to date. This could be updated periodically (at least annually) and reviewed by the BOS and township committees with oversight responsibility. Such a system could help ensure that the plan is continuing to move forward and that we sustain progress toward the plan's goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Kind regards,

Jim Searing
Solebury PA

From:
To: [Solebury Townsh.](#)
Subject: Feedback on Aquetung Spring Park Report
Date: Thursday, February 03, 2022 3:17:06 PM

Hello,

I am so grateful for the new Park! It has been such a boon for me during the pandemic. It has allowed me to take breaks from working at home and spend an hour walking, observing, and appreciating nature. And speaking of appreciation, I have noticed the thought and care that has gone into the creation of the trails. It really is a rather small area, yet there are so many different ways that a walk can go .

I want to say thank you to the many people who have made their idea a reality. I understand that a tremendous amount of work has gone into it, and I want you to know how much it is valued.

I have read the 2021 Report and would like to share some thoughts, since feedback was requested. Since the overriding goal is to restore and preserve the aquatic habitat, I am concerned about adding on so many other functions, especially if they conflict with the main goal. I do not agree with the creating an area to teach fly fishing. We already have many areas to serve this purpose. Similarly, I have concerns about the development of extra structures, even small ones. For instance, the old fire circle is a perfect space for outdoor meetings, classes, etc. If seats are needed, they could be created in a natural way, e.g. tree stumps, or logs. They could also be brought in and taken out, since the parking lot is so close. A teaching board could also be brought in, if needed. Having one there permanently would detract visually, invite graffiti, and be subject to weather damage.

I would like to see the Park stay as it is-a little jewel for the Township. My wish would be that not too much more that isn't already there be added because of the limited space . "Used but not overused", and with the preservation of the habitat always the priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback, and thank you again for the Park.

Sincerely,
Deborah Wiley