

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

(4) PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**March 2, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

**ROLL CALL: SPIEGELMAN – BOWMAN – SCHREIBER – ROTHMAN –
KALINOSKI**

**Township Manager LEFEVRE
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL**

MINUTES:

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Public
Affairs Committee Meeting.**

**Briar Bush Nature Center – Award Notification – Call on Greta
Brunschwylar**

Parks and Recreation Report – Call on Doug Wendell

PA1. Pool Feasibility Study – Grant Award

**Motion to accept a grant from the Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources for a feasibility study for the Penbryn and
Crestmont Pools in the amount of \$15,000.**

**PA2. Penn State Abington/Abington Township Scholarship Program
Guidelines**

Deferred to April.

PA3. Penn State – Permit Fee and Impact Agreement

Deferred to April.

PA4. C2P2 Grant Application – Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary

Motion to approve the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Shade Tree Commission to apply for a DCNR C2P2 (Community Conservation Partnership Program) development grant for improvements to the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, guided by the above- referenced land management plan and Abington Township MS4 program. Match of \$20,000 will be required if grant is awarded. Funding of the match will come from the 2017-2018 MS4 funding.

PA5. Settlement of Patane (1180 Easton Road) – Condemnation Proceedings

Motion to approve a settlement agreement on the litigation related to the condemnation proceedings for 1180 Easton Road and authorize payment of \$125,000 to the Condemnee for repayment of reasonable costs related to the process.

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

3/3/2016

Date

PAI

Agenda Item Number

DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ITEM

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Parks & Recreation

Pool Feasibility Study
Grant Award



PREVIOUS ACTIONS

The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution # 15-010 for the application of a grant that would fund up to 50% of the cost of the feasibility study.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to accept a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a feasibility study for the Penbryn and Crestmont Pools in the amount of \$15,000.

COMMENTS

The Board approved an expenditure in the 2016 Capital Budget for \$30,000 for the feasibility study. This amount meets the match requirement and allows for additional costs that may be necessary to complete the study.

BOARD ACTION REQUEST

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 3, 2016
DATE

PA 2
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>TOWNSHIP MANAGER</u>
Administration	Penn State Abington/ Abington Township Scholarship Program Guidelines DEFERRED TO APRIL	

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

As part of the Land Development approval process for the Penn State Student Housing Facility on Susquehanna Road, Penn State has agreed to provide the projected permit value of the project to the Township, as if it were not exempt from those fees. Part of that contribution is an annual \$30,000 scholarship allocation to be awarded by the Board of Commissioners.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to approve the Penn State Abington/Abington Township Scholarship Program Guidelines setting forth the Purpose, Criteria, Requirements, Guidelines, Amount, Timeline and Award of the \$30,000 annual allocation.

COMMENTS

The attached DRAFT Guidelines are provided as a frame work for discussion. Consideration should be given to: the number and amount of each award, the minimum GPA, minimum residency requirements, timeline, committee make-up and renewal option.

PENN STATE ABINGTON – ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose:	Through a collaborative agreement with Penn State Abington, Abington Township will award a total of \$30,000 annually in tuition scholarships on a competitive basis to eligible Township residents. The Abington Township Board of Commissioners is appreciative of the opportunity to partner with Penn State Abington in fostering higher education options for deserving Township residents. The Board of Commissioners understands the value of a college degree, as well as the financial obstacles it presents for many local families. The goal of this program is to provide Abington resident's with another opportunity to successfully pursue their higher education goals.
Criteria:	To be an eligible applicant the student must be a resident of Abington Township for a minimum of one year prior to making application. The student must be either an incoming freshman, a current undergraduate student or a transfer student enrolled in a 4 year program full time at Penn State Abington. The student must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent). Applicants must display a need for financial assistance.
Requirements:	Completion of an application form along with a 250-word (one page) essay on a prompt selected by the selection committee each year.
Guidelines:	Successful scholarship applicants will be selected annually in July with the financial award applied in equal distributions to their Penn State account in August and January. The scholarship award will be made directly to the Penn State Abington Business Office and applied to the recipient's outstanding bill. Recipients must continue to attend classes, maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scales (or equivalent) and be free from disciplinary actions during the applicable school year (August – May).

Amount:	<p>Three \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded and applied in equal installments of \$5,000 in August and January.</p> <p>The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to revisit the number and amount of the scholarships annually with the understanding the total amount awarded will not exceed \$30,000 yearly.</p>
Timeline:	<p>Application will be accepted beginning March 1st until a deadline of June 1st annually. There will be no exceptions to the application deadline.</p>
Award:	<p>A subcommittee of the Township Manager along with three Commissioners (selected annually by the Board President) will review and process all applications. The scholarship committee will present a recommendation of the successful recipients to the Public Affairs Committee for their approval. That recommendation, after approval of the Public Affairs Committee, will go before the Board of Commissioners for final approval and award at the July public meeting.</p>
Renewal process:	<p>Although the scholarships are limited to one academic year, previous scholarship recipients are eligible to re-apply.</p>

BOARD ACTION REQUEST

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 2, 1016

DATE

PA 3

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ITEM

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Administration

Penn State
Permit Fee and Impact Agreement



DEFERRED TO APRIL

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to approve the Permit Fee and Impact Fee Agreement with the Pennsylvania State University for the property located at 1001 Old York Road, Abington Township.

COMMENTS

BOARD ACTION REQUEST

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 2, 2016

PA 4

DATE

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ITEM

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Shade Tree Commission &
Parks and Recreation

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C2P2 Grant Application-
Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary

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PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Reference: Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary Land Management Plan, commissioned by Abington Township and completed by Land Concepts in June 2008.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to Approve the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Shade Tree Commission to apply for a DCNR C2P2 (Community Conservation Partnership Program) development grant for improvements to the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, guided by the above-referenced land management plan and Abington Township MS4 program. Match of \$20,000 will be required if grant is awarded. Funding of the match will come from the 2017- 2018 MS4 funding.

COMMENTS

During 2015, the STC, in partnership with friends of Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, completed an environmental assessment and hosted a series of hikes and focus discussions to identify the most pressing needs, issues and urgencies. This included field evaluation by professionals from DCNR, PA Fish and Game Commission, PA Reptile and Amphibian Survey, and PA Natural Heritage Program. Natural hiking paths were mapped using GPS and tested with a pilot group of residents, as part of an Eagle Scout project.

The STC combined this new information with the 2008 Land Concepts analysis and recommendations, and created a current documentation of strategic priorities for the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed C2P2 project represents a major step towards addressing these priorities.

NEEDS to be addressed through the project include:

- Safe and enjoyable access to and confidence in visiting natural areas, supported by ADA standards
- Enhanced walkability within and through the sanctuary property
- Sustainable meadow/forest land that serves to enhance canopy and contribute to water quality
- Habitat improvement for birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians, coupled with sustainable forestry
- Community awareness and appreciation of the interplay of natural and man-made features that comprise a healthy ecosystem, particularly with respect to stormwater management

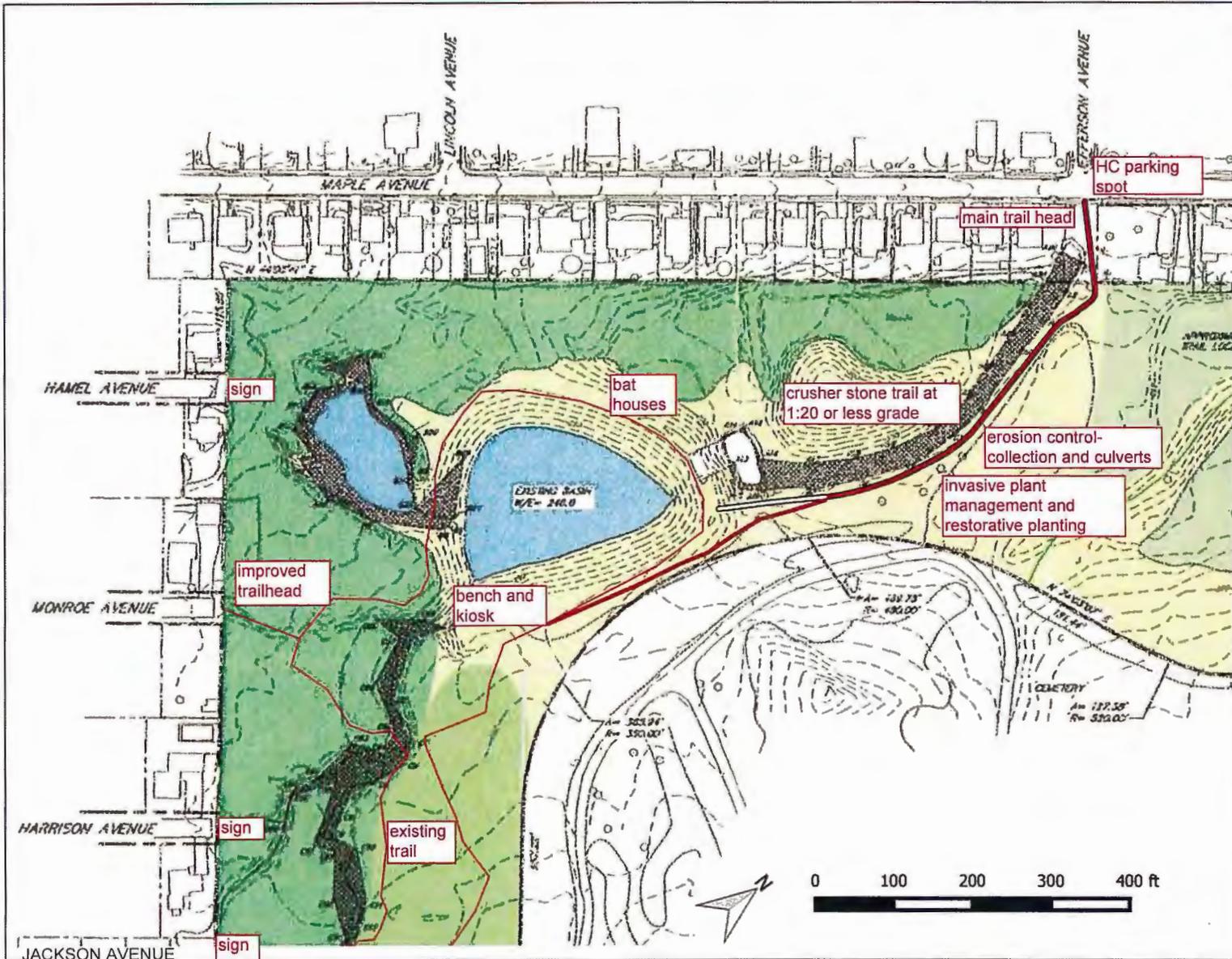
ISSUES that this project will help us to address include:

- General lack of woodland experience available to local residents
- Low level of awareness of how this site contributes to stormwater management, essential canopy coverage and critical habitat
- Prevalence of invasive species that outcompete native species

URGENCIES (aka “Why do this project now?”) include:

- Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary is one of a few non-urban areas located along the Wissahickon watercourse, and sustaining its meadowlands and forests is critical for stream health and water quality
- Abington Township recently enacted a new comprehensive stormwater ordinance. It is essential to provide education and examples of best management practices that can be applied throughout the township.
- Preservation and improvement of tree canopy coverage and layered forest is of the highest priority for conservation (Abington Township Comprehensive Plan).
- Abington Township lacks a systematic approach to invasive plant management. Together with a parallel initiative at Jackson Park, the proposed project provides a pivotal, public demonstration of best practices that will reach a large populace.

Ardley Wildlife Sanctuary Development Proposal DRAFT 2-24-16



GOALS

1. Improve public access and appreciation of the natural environment
2. Restore degraded meadow and woodlands
3. Foster awareness of stormwater management and water quality

FEATURES- TRAILS

- ADA access
- Trail head signs and interpretive kiosk
- Firm and stable trail from main entrance to pond
- Connectivity between Maple and Monroe Aves

FEATURES- SUSTAINABLE FOREST

- Erosion control
- Management of invasive plants
- Restoration planting

Data Sources:

Forest Base Map: AWS Land Management Plan by Land Concepts 2008. Features shown are correct for 2016 conditions.

Soils: Montgomery Co, PA Soil Survey of April 1967

LeA = Lawrenceville Silt Loam 0-3% Slope
LeB2 - Lawrenceville Silt Loam 3-8% Slope moderately eroded

Lawrenceville Silt Loam is a deep moderately well drained silty soil which is nearly level or gently sloping. The soil has a seasonal high water table of 1 to 2 feet and a depth to bed rock from 4 to 12 feet.

Contours: 2 foot intervals shown with elevations based on NGVD 1929.

Nature Trail Mapping: BSA Eagle Project 2015

The ADA Trail: Maximum slope and cross slope less than 1:20 and widths from 3 to 8 feet per ADA guidelines



BOARD ACTION REQUEST

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 2, 2016

DATE

PA5

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ITEM

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Administration

Settlement of Patane (1180 Easton Road)
Condemnation Proceedings



PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Abington Township filed a declaration of taking of the Patane Property at 1180 Easton Road on May 21, 2009, to which the Condemnee filed Preliminary Objections. The Township later filed a Declaration of Relinquishment on May 16, 2011 thereby abandoning title to the property.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to approve a settlement agreement on the litigation related to the condemnation proceedings for 1180 Easton Road and authorize payment of \$125,000 to the Condemnee for repayment of reasonable costs related to the process.

COMMENTS

As the Township relinquished the condemned property, it is required to repay the Condemnee the reasonable costs and expenses related to the appraisal, attorney and engineering fees and other costs incurred as a result of this condemnation proceedings.