

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:38 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, ROTHMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE  
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL  
Township Solicitor CLARKE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, DiPLACIDO

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Doug Wendell reported that the spring brochure has been posted on Township website and will also be mailed out to residents in the next few weeks.

Pool Feasibility Study Grant Award

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski 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.

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Mr. Wendell.

Mr. Wendell said that the Township was fortunate to receive this grant and the match of \$15,000 is already in the capital account for this year.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski asked for further explanation about the grant.

Mr. Wendell replied the grant is specific to the pools and whether or not the Township can support renovating the pools and whether or not it will be economically feasible.

There is a six page scope of work document and a consultant will be hired along with community participation taking six to nine months before it is completed. Feasibility study needs to be done first before receiving any additional funds from DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

Commissioner Spiegelman asked will there be simultaneous renovation of the pools or will that be addressed in this study?

Mr. Wendell replied we need to discuss that with consultants.

Commissioner Kline asked what firms do this type of consultant work?

Mr. Wendell replied generally, those who deal with recreation items such as experience with building pools and pool facilities, etc.

Commissioner Gillespie asked for the age of the pools.

Mr. Wendell replied Penbryn was built first in 1972 and then Crestmont was built a few years later.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Penn State Abington/Abington Township Scholarship Program Guidelines

Commissioner Spiegelman announced that this item has been deferred to the April Public Affairs Committee meeting.

Penn State – Permit Fee and Impact Agreement

Commissioner Spiegelman announced that this item has been deferred to the April Public Affairs Committee meeting.

C2P2 Grant Application – Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber 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.

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Mr. Wendell.

Mr. Wendell said this is related to stormwater issues being addressed in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Rita Stevens, Chairperson of the Shade Tree Commission, is here this evening to speak on it.

Ms. Stevens said total conceived project would be an \$80,000 dollar spend for which the Township would only be required a \$20,000 match. This is to get control of invasive plant and restoration, so it is a more sustainable forest and one that functions to recharge water into the ground.

Also, trail development will be done for better access for residents such as in the Pennypack Nature Preserve or the Meadowbrook Bird Sanctuary.

This is exactly the type of project that DCNR awards C2P2 grant funding for making existing parks and open space better by connecting people with nature and implementing best management practices for conservation.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski clarified that a study will be done to see what needs to be removed and replaced. Is that correct?

Ms. Stevens replied it is considered a development grant and DCNR deemed that we have done enough evaluation and planning of the area, so the funding would be for implementation as opposed to feasibility.

In the last 12 months, five different agencies including DCNR, Fish and Game Commissions, etc. have provided detailed recommendations on land management and what ought to be done for restoration as well as access. Part of the \$80,000 will be to hire professional services to detail the design and implementation.

Commissioner Kalinoski asked will this project be part of the bike plan?

Ms. Stevens replied it is consistent with the bike plan. There is a service road that goes from Maple Avenue to the detention pond and we will address, capture and mitigate erosion that is happening there and put down a firm and stable surface on that existing pathway.

Commissioner Kline asked about MS4 credits being quantified for this work.

Ms. Stevens replied she has been working with Township Engineer going line-by-line on everything we propose to ascertain as to whether or not the Township could get MS4 credits for. Our rough estimate is that at least \$60,000 worth of this project spend is eligible for getting credit towards MS4 investment in continuous improvement in managing stormwater.

Commissioner Kline asked is that for the Wissahickon Watershed?

Ms. Stevens replied yes.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Settlement of Patane (1180 Easton Road) – Condemnation Proceedings

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski 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.

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Solicitor Clarke.

Solicitor Clarke commented that this is the ultimate resolution of a condemnation matter that began in May, 2009.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the entire cost of litigation and the taking of property.

Solicitor Clarke replied other than costs for filings in the Court of Common Pleas and fees for appraisals; all work by his firm has been done under retainer and that is true for his predecessor Mr. Herder.

Public Affairs Committee Meeting

March 2, 2016

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any general comments relating to Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the rent fee for the Ardsley Community Center.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

sev