

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Andy Merritt, Todd Kirsten, Ben Pisoni and Barbara Spencer (arrived at 7:02 p.m.). Staff present were Amy Smith; Township Clerk; D.J. Liggett, Township Planner and Jason Little, Planning Commission Chair. Residents & others in attendance: Andy Mears, JMT and Alice Stirton, JMT.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

4. **MINUTES**

Mr. Stevenson made a correction to item number eight, third paragraph.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 12th, 2015 as revised; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Stevenson stated there was an error in subtraction in the general fund excel spreadsheet formula from the last meeting and included was an updated report for approval.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the Treasurer's Report dated March 12th, 2015 as revised; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

6. **APPROVE OF HIRING DENNIE HUBER AS A MAGICIAN/BALLOONIST AT THE RATE OF \$250.00 FOR THE TOWNSHIP EASTER PARTY ON 3/29/2015**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve the hiring of Dennie Huber as a Magician/Balloonist at the rate of \$250.00 for the Township Easter Party on 3/29/2015; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Ms. Spencer questioned whether the rules of clearances would apply for the Magician since he would be working with children. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether it would affect the rules if parents are present. Mr. Stevenson recommended that clearances be obtained for future events if clearances are needed. Mr. Merritt commented that the State put out new rules for clearance checks but does not know if the rules are in effect yet. Mr. Merritt stated the rule would apply to anyone working with children under the age of eighteen.

7. **PRESENTATION BY JMT, CONSULTANTS OF PARK PLAN CONCEPT**

Mr. Mears reviewed the initial findings, key recommendations and provided concepts.

Mr. Mears reviewed the design proposed for Autumn Meadow Park which would include defining the parking area, walking loop trail, defining playground area, relocating the recycling bins, incorporate plaza area, using landscaping to define areas of the park and add interest and beauty, provide ADA access and pedestrian linkage to all facilities and viewing areas and adding a central plaza. This concept would also include, improvement to the entrance with landscape treatments, paved parking area with thirty spaces, park terrace, tiered youth playground and tot lot, viewing hill and garden. Mr. Mears discussed the replacing mowed lawn area with native grasses along walking trails and a DCNR app that configures cost, time, etc. between mowing lawn and maintaining these grass areas. Mr. Mears recommended fencing the adjacent Maintenance facility and relocating the recycling bins near that facility with a paved overflow parking area. Mr. Mears provided cost estimates for this proposal estimating costs to be around \$491,700. Ms. Spencer questioned whether the trail could go around the fenced Maintenance Building. Ms. Spencer questioned whether a mulched trail would be cheaper than a paved trail. Mr. Mears stated it would not meet ADA standards and discussed maintenance and costs if it were not paved.

Secretary

Mr. Mears reviewed the design proposed for Municipal Lane Park which would include five layers to the improvements, widening Municipal Lane to 18', ADA parking and entrance, paved plaza and concession stand area, maintained open lawn, proposed tot lot, 6' wide loop trail and ADA access to existing facilities, and an interpretive trail throughout the wooded area of the park. Mr. Mears provided a cost estimate of \$177,045 for layer one which would not include paving Municipal Lane. The second layer would include paving the parking area to include 60 parking spaces. The third layer would include material storage, restroom shelter and overflow parking for 35 spaces +/- . The fourth layer would include pavilion conversion. The fifth layer would include extending the parking area to 90 spaces by removing the Municipal Building, new stadium style bleacher system and relocating the batting cages. Mr. Mears discussed themed playground art. Mr. Mears reviewed cost estimates for each layer ranging from \$165,000 - \$1,100,000. Mr. Mears stated layer five would be a major renovation.

Ms. Spencer commented that she would rather focus on Autumn Meadow Park first and have those improvements made before enhancing Municipal Lane Park. Mr. Mears stated unfortunately, cost amounts have increased but grant amounts have not. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether parking areas are payable under liquid fuels funds. Ms. Liggett stated that only roads would be payable under liquid fuels.

Mr. Kirsten suggested the Parks Committee invite the DCNR Representative and discuss the plans and get ideas. There was discussion whether private/public partnerships with parks is optional. Ms. Spencer questioned whether the Township could do a fund raiser to raise funds to make park improvements. Mr. Kirsten commented that he believed Ms. Spencer was referring to the Fraser Street "buy a brick" fundraiser and that might be a good place to start for community involvement.

Mr. Kirsten stated that walking paths/bike trails at both parks would be something he would support if funding was an issue. Mr. Kirsten added that based on the survey results these types of trails are a high propriety for citizens. Mr. Merritt commented that maybe contractors within the Township would be willing to donate materials and time.

Ms. Spencer discussed boardwalks over soggy areas versus stone trails. Mr. Kirsten suggested providing a concept that included boardwalks and possible educational materials around the trail pertaining to birdlife along with the interpretations.

Mr. Stevenson stated he is pleased with how this is progressing and questioned what the next step would be. Mr. Stevenson discussed the types of improvements the Township has already completed such as the piano keys and sandwich boards on State Route 550 and the Smith Road improvements and pedestrian egress improvements that will be made this year. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether those types of improvements would help when applying for funding. Mr. Pisoni stated he liked the idea of the committee discussing the options for improvements and would like them to discuss this with the DCNR. Ms. Spencer reiterated she would rather complete improvements to Autumn Meadow Park first before making improvements at Municipal Lane.

Mr. Mears stated he would have Ms. Ann Toole work on an operations and maintenance plan working from the low end level to the full plan.

8. UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS REGARDING PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP ALONG EASTERN EDGE OF PATTON TOWNSHIP AND APPROVING REVISED DEADLINES

Mr. Stevenson stated he and Ms. Steele met with Mr. Hawbaker and Mr. Poole to discuss where the Township was after the joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Mr. Stevenson commented there were three issues to be mindful of and that is the extension of the sewer line, the impact of Sawmill Road and politically how a denser population in the eastern end of the township would impact voting and decision-making for the rural areas of the township.

Mr. Stevenson stated he would like to go the Centre Region with a sewer extension request by the end of 2016 or early 2017. Ms. Spencer commented the Board would need a good plan before going to the Centre Region.

Ms. Liggett commented that the Planning Commission's perspective is they started working on the future land use map in 2013 so this has been on the table for a while. The Planning Commission has made Ag recommendations and worked on the mixed use area at the eastern end of the Township and are requesting a guidance on timing. How the Planning Commission proceeds depends on how quickly the Board of Supervisors want to move.

Ms. Spencer commented that the current Municipal Building is not healthy and it needs to be bigger so she would rather see this proceed sooner than later.

Mr. Stevenson stated he would like the Planning Commission to proceed however they are comfortable getting it done within the time frame discussed earlier (by end of 2016 early 2017).

Ms. Liggett questioned what information the Board of Supervisors needs to start discussions with other elected officials in the region on extending the sewer line. Ms. Liggett explained that zoning can't happen without sewer and public sewer doesn't make sense without higher density. Mr. Stevenson commented that it is no secret that this is being discussed since there has been discussion on updating the Act 537 plan and UAJA mentioned Halfmoon's plans in its request to update the Act 537 plan. Mr. Stevenson questioned what the Township would need to provide for an early concept. Ms. Liggett commented the discussion with other elected officials should start with the future land use map, which shows agriculture on the western end and higher density on the eastern end of the township. The eastern end is the most likely area to put sewer given its proximity to existing lines, while preserving the western end of the Township. Ms. Liggett commented that the Board could also discuss this from a tax stand point as the higher density development would generate revenues to support road maintenance and other municipal services.

Ms. Liggett commented she reports on Halfmoon's zoning discussions at the Centre Region Planning Agency (CRPA) staff meetings and there has been a lot of discussion on zoning around the Centre Region. Ms. Liggett has made CRPA staff aware of Halfmoon Township's intentions. Ms. Spencer questioned whether Halfmoon Township should be on the agenda to start discussions within the region. Mr. Little stated that he attends the CRPC meetings and it has been discussed at the meeting and there did not seem to be any backlash.

Mr. Merritt commented that Cory Miller from UAJA has Halfmoon Township on the radar.

Ms. Liggett stated the Planning Commission had a terrific meeting with the State College Borough Water Authority and Clearwater Conservancy. There was discussion on environmental features within the eastern area that make it sensitive and make is a poor spot for on-lot septic. Also, septic problems in this area would negatively affect people downstream. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether DEP would look at these sensitive areas when looking at a septic module. Ms. Liggett stated that yes they would, but it is not a good idea to rely on DEP because they are looking to the Township and the zoning that is permitted. Zoning is the key.

Mr. Stevenson commented that higher density on the eastern end would help generate more revenue for the Open Space Preservation Program and make permanent purchases more of a reality working with the County.

9. POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE SPONSORING CNET FOR TWO SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COMMISSION MEETINGS

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve sponsoring CNET for two Spring Creek Watershed Commission meetings; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

10. MOTION TO APPROVE EXPENDING UP TO \$5,000 FROM THE OPERATING RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT MUNICIPAL AND MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS

- ***MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to approve expending up to \$5,000 from the operating reserve account for security improvements at Municipal and Maintenance Buildings; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

11. MANGER REPORT

No report provided.

12. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Mr. Kirsten reminded citizens about the Easter Party that will be this Sunday, March 29th from 2-4 p.m.

Secretary

Mr. Stevenson commented that he attended the Spring Creek Watershed Committee and there was discussion that everything that flows into the Spruce Creek Watershed is impaired. Mr. Stevenson requested staff invite Ms. Ombalski, Clearwater Conservancy, to a future meeting to discuss farmer education and programs available to mitigate this problem.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Secretary