

July 10, 2023

The Alexandria Borough Council met at the Alexandria Firehall in Alexandria, PA 16611. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Judy Scott. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

Attendees:

Mike Peters, VP Joel Pheasant, President Judy Scott, Treasurer Leslie McDermott, Jane Pilch (via Zoom), Stefanie Lane Fisher, Steve Fisher, Steve and Cindy Lane, Ron Kuntz, Ken Patterson, Dain Davis, Lucas

Motion to accept the minutes from June 13th after discussed amendments are completed, Mike Peters. Seconded VP Joel Pheasant. All in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Bills – VP Pheasant motioned to approve. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Stefanie Lane Fish discussed her grandfather owning a piece of property, gift of the park with no liability. President Scott has spoken with Mike Potter at DCNR they will be creating a nature conservation area. They are blessing the borough so what would they love to see President Scott asked Stefanie and family. Stefanie mentioned some ideas Melvin Lane Memorial Park or Bluebird Park, she's partial to bluebird park due to her grandfathers love of birds and the appeal that name will have with young people. Council would need to vote. Jane Pilch says it's a wonderful gift, she's trying to locate it, does it touch on the lane/alley we've had issues with? President Scott said yes, so clarification of the property lines is imperative. In dealing with some of these how about the maintenance of the alley, etc. liquid fuels. Mike Peters said these are 2 separate issues. President Scott said in developing phase – grants can accept this land donation in a matching kind. We've talked kayak/canoe launch pade, this is one step. Jane P. asked for a practical example. President Scott said if land value is \$200k and you're requesting \$300k and you need a % of a match... we would have a property value. 25 years it'd be the value... - "In kind donation". President Scott said the terms and conditions – nature conservation there, pavilion, etc. Jane P. wants Mike to explain the separate issues – there's direct access to the area – Stefanie Fisher explained the neighbors and boundaries...eventually the property owner needs to know where his property ends. President Scott asked if there was a motion to accept the generous offer of the property? VP Pheasant made a motion to accept the gift pending the solicitors advice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Alexandria Scout House Committee – check for \$1,600 Mike P. made a motion to pay the annual scout house fee. VP Pheasant seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Back to Property gift... Dain Davis asked if there donation was 7 acres, she said no, it's .8 and .3 acres – Stefanie clarified

President Scott explained that many things are happening at once, but will align well if done properly. Greenway, 9/11 Trail, roads, stormwater – this property girl is great timing. As Lucas entered at 7:40 pm – Lucas said we will work with Judy to get our grant application in by July 17th – Mike P. asked are we talking about a concrete pad launch – Lucas said yes, hopefully parking too, walking trail, permitting w/DEP will be required – property owners on board helps, with the grant – we can pull preliminary scope & cost

Ron Kuntz...

What about the tree at the town square hitting my property? Pres. Scott said that the tree will be taken care of, but he is waiting for the cold weather

The park thing has been brought up – is there a comprehensive plan or just in the early stages? Pres. Scott said that yes, we are in the very early stages and full throttle. Ron asked if there are plans to remove the trees, etc. Pres Scott said that we are working with DCNR, Huntingdon Conservation District, etc... we are in the very early stages and as of just a short time ago council made a motion to accept the property pending the details we need to work out.

Ron said, what is the process? Public input – permitting, etc? My input is that removing trees from that island would be terrible – Dain Davis said that when the bridge was put in no one was able to remove the trees so it's extremely unlikely that they'll be removing trees from the island. Pres. Scott said we will be proactive to develop this nature preserve in the right way. Lucas said that they will be put through the wringer to make sure we aren't changing any flood elevations – our input is going to be as minimal as we can. A kayak launch, paddle boats won't be very disruptive. VP Pheasant said that Mike Vargo was there when we were discussing as well and he is willing to allow us on the edge of his property also – Ron said I think it's a great idea as long as it's done without too much impact on the river.

Stephanie said I think it's very nice to have access for fisherman – my grandfather was an avid fisher and I think this will be a great use of the space

Pres. Scott said with that discussion on the paddle boat launch and the grant application – VP Pheasant said if we proceed with that it doesn't lock us into anything right now

Mike Peters will make a motion...fizzled out...

Jane Pilch said she feels pressure to make a decision that we are rushing into a grant application

Lucas said that deadline of July 17th might not be right. He also explained that this is the Conservation National Resources – DCNR – Greenways Planning Grant – it gets our project on their list because that grant program encompasses a lot of entities at DCNR. It will help connect the trails and water ways...

Jane Pilch doesn't know that she wants to go through a process, what strings are attached that are invasive to our liberties, freedoms, etc. in our town. Lucas apologized that the Greenways portion of this is the 17th – that is a PennDOT project or program that Judy and he have talked about.

Pres. Scott said that's referring to bringing rails to trails down through town. President Scott said that communicating throughout the month is important for council to stay afloat. Dain Davis said that the boat launch is the only addition.

VP Pheasant asked where are we?

Mike Peters asked if there was a July 17th deadline and Lucas said yes.

Lucas said in regards to the boat launch I don't believe that has a July 17th deadline, but you would want authorization to start the process. That would hopefully alleviate some of Jane's concerns with rushing into that. Are we voting to just approve the boat launch? Jane asked. Lucas said yes, that would give Judy the ability to look into what she needs to do and bring that boat launch to life.

Jane Pilch said when some of these things are so broad and multidirectional we lose our focus.

Mike Peters is making a motion for you to pursue grants for the boat launch

Mike Peters made a motion to pursue whatever necessary grants for the paddle boat launch. VP Pheasant seconded that. Verbal yes, Pres. Scott, VP Pheasant, Mike Peters and Jane Pilch opposed.

Jane Pilch said that they are pursuing the boat launch... Jane Pilch opposed. She wants to pursue the concept of it.

Stephanie and family are in favor of this, do it up, get the money!

Pres. Scott filled in Solicitor Stover and asked if anyone has any questions.

Dain Davis said are you saying a 25 year easement. Pres. Scott said that Mike Potter suggested that will need a minimum of 30 years... Stephanie said that if there's a minimal requirement they will work with that so long as it's not 100 years...

Solicitor Stover said so yes, it sounds like you want to get an easement for a minimum of years... he will start drafting an easement document, but hold off finishing it until they hear what the grant requirements are. President Scott said they will be in conversation... Stephanie said that her grandfather will be so happy and she is excited and wants nature to be appreciated and used right.

Stover said we'll just have to work with Lucas on defining the property – Stephanie said that it's all of it, the survey includes a portion my cousin owns, but both parcels that are mine are included. Parcel B and C on the plan. Mike Volgol has also verbally granted access on his

property, but can provide that in writing – Pres. Scott said that he asked to do a nice fence just to ensure people stay on the right side of the property

Mike Peters said you know there's a sewer pump station there? All said yes

Ron asked is the Pennsylvania Fish Commission a part of that... Lucas said that they will be involved likely – Ron said he wondered if there's ability for money that. Also, council if you have land owners interested in the easement , they could possibly get money for that...

Lucas asked if you want to start the stormwater discuss or streetscape...

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

Lucas said so the stormwater drainage project is the one the borough received \$500,000 last year, but that's only a portion of the project. We are currently in the process of reviewing the study that projected almost \$2 million. We are trying to figure out how much we can actually get done for \$500,000 – if we do work on Main Street we need the PennDOT permit. While doing that we don't want to miss our opportunity to go back to this same grant program due July 31st – Judy's reached out to anybody that can provide letters of support. He feels we will rank high since they partially funded the project last year. He thinks we need to apply for another \$1.5 - \$2 million dollars – with cost of inflation, etc – it could be 2 -3 years down that road until next phase so those cost estimates prepared 2 years ago are already lagging behind. Tonight JUDY is looking for authorization to apply for the DCED Multimodal Grant that same program you were successful for last year. This has a 30% match, but are waiving the match requirement this year? Pres. Scott said that she wasn't sure... the CFA did waive it again – so if it's the same one we did, they did waive it so Lucas said then, yes, it has. This would just be reapplying for the rest of the project we got – Pres. Scott said our \$500,000 needs utilized by 2026 – Lucas said yes.

Mike Peters – asked about a motion and Pres. Scott said yes and we also need a resolution drafted by our Solicitor...

Jane asked what the acronym was for the no match grant – CFA is the body in Harrisburg that administers the funds for these grant programs, your agreement or grant contract is with them.

Mike Peters motioned to approve reaching out for a grant up to \$2 million dollars and having the solicitor writing a resolution allowing us to apply for the grants. VP Pheasant seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Pres. Scott said that the new information from Buzkirk will help with this.

Lucas Vince Greenland from P

TRANSPORTATION SEDICIDE GRANT PROGRAM – this application is due in September 15th and it can handle any type of transportation project, focusing more on none vehicular transportation – this grant has a zero match, they say it's actually not a grant – the borough would have to

provide the funding upfront, but it's a 100% reimbursement. That covers 100% of the construction costs – the meeting with PennVEST says this type of stuff will help us.

Lucas said that in getting the \$500,000 last year really shows that you are making progress.

What improvements are you hoping to apply for with this one Lucas asked President Scott –

President Scott said that this will be a tow parted – with the transportation committee there are objectives...we are section 1 of projects around Huntingdon County, the study brings rails to trails down through Alexandria and the majority of that occurs in Porter Twp, but that's part one bringing the trail down. Part two which affects Alexandria Borough is bringing the Greenway through... but with our traffic calming needs we're trying to achieve – we did the traffic study in May 2022 – and a suggestion made at that time was when you enter town from the Medical Center side of town has a center medium and cause traffic to slow down coming into town. With that design we have bump outs on the curbs – Jane Pilch asked what are bump outs – Pres. Scott explained what they are – Solicitor Stover said they've done it in Lemont, Boalsburg, State College. – President Scott said that this grant would help accomplish these things.

President Scott said that if we can get part A accomplished then that pedestrian trail has now connected to the Borough of Alexandria which opens the opportunities up for additional funding towards our sidewalks, streetscapes, bump outs, etc... PennDOT is very aware of us now and our need for traffic calming – this grant will allow us to at least start with the 700 block

Minimum of \$50,000 maximum of \$1.5 million – Lucas said if you focus on those components, getting the gateway addressed that will then help us move forward with the next streetscape project and then even be able to tie into the stormwater project.

VP Pheasant will this entryway impact what we'd be doing for the stormwater?

Lucas said, no, we are hoping that all of the components work together. So that the piping is done alongside this other construction

VP Pheasant said that these bump outs and things have been a discussion for a long while now and I'm in favor of getting this done especially it helps us get to the goal of traffic calming. We need to come up with ways to do these projects regardless of this funding so I think we need to pursue, this needs done

Jane Pilch said that traffic will just divert to Shelton Ave. and how will we address diverted traffic to Shelton Ave. President Scott said that we will get there, it's not a lost cause. VP Pheasant – Shelton has 4 stop signs in the same distance that Main Street has none, but the concern with redirection of traffic to Shelton – they would hit still as many stop signs. He thinks the issue on Shelton Ave is the same as we see on Main Street – we don't have a means to enforce things

Jane Pilch asked if this is a state grant? Lucas said, yes, it's funded through PennDOT.

VP Pheasant made a motion for authorization to proceed in preparing a grant to the PennDOT Set Aside program for traffic calming improvements on the west side Main Street as you enter the borough. Mike Peters seconded. VP Pheasant, Mike Peters, President Judy all yes. Jane no. Motion carried.

Lucas said you'll likely need to have a loan more in the range of half a million dollars... they are usually able to reimburse within 60 days – usually then we just let the contractors know that you have 60 – 90 days to do the pay request. You're going to get a large contractor with this type of project... Jane asked what if the payback is delayed? Lucas said I haven't experienced anything to that effect with PennDOT – they have the funds earmarked in an account for your project – I'm not saying it's a regular occurrence. So this is has nothing to do with the build back better or federally funding right?

Solicitor Stover said that he'll adapt the resolution forms. Pres. Scott and the secretary don't need to be in his presence to sign it.

The William Penn Land (the island portion) – Pres. Scott said she is going to reach out to DCNR as far as what we're looking to do as far as the nature conservation. Is that okay with council? All nodded.

TREE PLANTING ORDER

Jane Pilch PAIPL – Pres. Scott asked if Jane reached out to Sam – Jane is researching the funding source, she noted that the language in the statement saying that humans are people are fouling the land in it's climate change direction. Pres. Scott said that was from the Huntingdon Conservation District – tabling until next month. Jane wants to do more research on that.

300 BLOCK

President Scott said that we need to clarify some things, property owner 308 is blocking the right away. We are property owners on the other said so being that we are a property owners and the Sorenson property at 306 Main Street were here the other month and are seeking assistance to help with the right away being blocked. We have ownership in that block, these people have ownership in that block, now we've been granted property on that block – this won't be pleasant, but it needs dealt with. Pres. Scott asked council members how we should proceed forward and what motion needs made...

VP Pheasant said the one document shows their property going to the river. Pres. Scott said that even talking to others and we need to do a property clarification... it does refer to the right away on the property where he has his green house, etc.

VP Pheasant said his deed does indicate that there should be an alleyway or road there. The 306 property mentioned an alley there as did Dain, but VP Pheasant and Mike don't recall that.

Council looked at the property maps, etc.

Jane Pilch said maybe because this issue is so contentious, so big, etc. I'd feel better if full council was present. Pres. Scott said that we don't have a full council. Mike Peters said when will that happen. VP Pheasant said that we can keep council in the conversation and keep them involved, but we need to keep moving. Jane Pilch mentioned winter maintenance – Pres. Scott said we are looking for clarification on the boundaries and property lines – these right away for homeowners need respected especially if we're looking into this nature conservation area. This is not new or a rush. Jane Pilch said that there is disagreement among council members about who will maintain or who will pay for all this... Jane Pilch wants to know what needs clarified to make a thoughtful decision

Solicitor Stover said that right now there are many questions with few answers. Different facets to the issue. A number of properties here, we aren't clear where the boundaries lie 2. We don't know the nature of this road or alley is as far as who has what rights, including private and public rights and the two are different and can be enforced differently; 3. Historical use...

Deed research, some surveying (Mike Peters said we did some of this, before Greg left we were having him send a letter to the deeds to stop blocking the road.) Stover said if Greg has that information and can send it to Solicitor Stover that'd be helpful.

Leighton is to reach out to Greg Jackson to provide any research in regards to the 300 block property and send it all to Solicitor Stover.

VP Pheasant - The owners came to use recently expressing their issues that they were experiencing as well as if honey bees count as livestock. VP Pheasant said that this has been a 4 year issue that needs taken care of... Mike Peters said it's a continuation of what's already been approved. VP Pheasant said that the motion is to act on what's been done...

Solicitor Stover said you don't want to get involved in a private dispute of the neighbors fencing, but Mike Peters said how they built it in violation of the fencing ordinance.

Mike Peters said that we approved Greg to send letters and all so we need that, Solicitor Stover said then he needs Greg's information.

PARKS

Porter Twp want to negotiate, something about bleachers being purchased

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Bureau of Veritas have not gotten any of the permits, Pres. Scott said probably a simple miscommunication – Brandon and Pres. Scott will discuss further. People have to come to the borough for approval then go to Bureau of Veritas that doesn't change

INSURANCE

At our next meeting

PILLAR BRIDGE PROJECT – Cody Shook

Members of the community and this council want to honor his legacy. President Scott said – she wants council’s permission to honor him there as well. This is something on the agenda that says plaque, but if we could change that tentatively and talk with the family... she has thoughts she’d like to do. VP Pheasant said that the Shoafs are good too? Pres. Scott said yes, they are. VP Pheasant said about something in line with the type of work he did and perhaps one of his students can do it. Pres. Scott said yes, absolutely that’s confirmation. We will discuss that further.

Dain Davis said you need to approve the \$340 for Robbie Goss to purchase and put in the stormwater grate up there... I make a motion to approve the purchase of the Stormwater grate that’s replacing the one that’s ready to fall apart. Jane Pilch seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn from Jane Pilch, Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.