

November 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer led by President Judy Scott

Roll Call:

Ron Dively, Dan Coffman, Ken Paterson, Kim Diggins, News Reporter Daily News, Andrew Felter (Army Corps), Jason Stick (Army Corps), Dain Davis, Jacob Kraus (?) PM from PennDOT, doing a project from Bridge Street, Council Members: Tori Wilt, Jane Pilch, Vice President Joel Pheasant, Mike Peters

October 9, 2023 Minutes – Mike Peters motioned to approved minutes. Tori Wilt seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Financials and Bills – VP Pheasant made motion to accept, Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

NO solicitor this evening.

Representative Reports

Ken Patterson: Mowing grass and picking up

Presentation of the Army Corp

Jason Stick

- Andrew began reviewing the study and explaining what non-structural means (attach study to meeting minutes)
- The reason we did the study now was because the borough approved to do non-structural verse structural flood proofing – focusing on the consequences of flooding verse the probability of flooding
- Reviewed the suggestions not requirements – they are potential solutions and the costs range greatly
- The insurance guru wasn't able to attend tonight, but Andrew does say that if you elevate all your mechanical items, etc within the flood area that helps reduce insurance costs
 - IF there are any flood specific questions funnel them to Judy and she will get them to Bill. He and I will ensure you get answers
- Whatever the Borough ordinance says the flood level has to be above that's what we're going base off of

Andrew Felter

- Explains the thought process that goes into the concept plan
- The sheets highlight key building features
- Reviewed examples of properties and proposed solutions/concepts
- Mike Peters asked the 703.1 what's the measure that's feet above sea level, Jason answered.
- Andrew continued...
- Primary benefit to filling the basement (one of the prevention options) is found on the flood insurance level; the first floor being above base elevation – if you remove the basement level that's in the flood plain, that could drastically reduce the flood insurance.

Jason Stick

- Next Steps: Provide draft report to Borough by end of December for review/comment; Finalize report by end of February 2024
- As far as funding opportunities are concerned – anyone interested in pursuing any of these measures go to President Scott and then work in conjunction with PEMA
- This study is a table setting to prepare for grants, we can't do any construction, but you can utilize this study to get a number of Grants... PEMA, HUD, etc. there are many grant resources.
- President Scott said yes, thank you we used this study to help acquire the Multimodal grant.
- Is there any way that the back flows that Andrew showed, could they be installed while you're working on Main Street?? Jason asked the guy from Penn DOT if they'll include the stormwater piping in this project. PennDOT guy said no... President Scott said our stormwater project we have going on we are awaiting results for additional funding, we're in a holding pattern. If we do anything we disqualify ourselves. Jason was thinking we could include stormwater in the upcoming project so people don't have to dig up their yards and do it later.
- Jane Pilch said can you please define the 1% - Jason said it used to be called the 100 year flood plain, they didn't want people thinking that if a flood happened in 1962 it wouldn't happen until 2062 – although it's unlikely, they don't want people to be confused. The numbers are dependent also on the elevation of the house. President Scott told council that the report will have all the detailed data for us to review.
- Jane Pilch said, you just have to be above the 1% - Jason said that's the idea. FEMA established this back in the 70's and while that number isn't static, it's an aim. Just because it's 1,000 feet today doesn't mean it will be in 20 years – there are many factors that go into that
- President Scott asked if the public has questions.
 - Ron Kuntz asked in regard to concrete window wells, if you add those to your basement level does it take you out of the flood plain. No, Jason said it doesn't

take you out of the flood plain, but it helps give protection. The determination of if you're in the flood plain or not doesn't change based on the flood resilience you implement. It's protecting against storms. In the eyes of FEMA or those providers it won't move the needle, but for the homeowners to apply some incremental protection. What FEMA looks at to determine you're in the flood plain or not – they are looking at the LAG number. Andrew said some of the implementations we mentioned will change flood insurance, but not through the minor changes. Most of this doesn't directly impact the flood insurance issue. Ron said there's really no place this is spelled out – is there? It makes it complicated for the homeowner. Jason shared a time someone had a slab on grade house – and had 8 feet of water on their first floor. They had everything on that floor and after that flood they put everything on the second floor and put a garage in the first floor. Their insurance went from \$2,400 to \$400. Not all solutions are popular. These are just potential solutions we must mention. Andrew said that elevating utilities should be strongly considered. If there's nothing else in your basement then sure don't fill it, but at least elevating utilities are a good idea.

- President Scott asked if there are grant opportunities and Jason said yes, there are options.
- Each individual homeowner must assess.
- Ron asked if the town applies for the grants or the homeowners – Jason said the borough would go through the process to apply for those grants
- Andrew said they'd be happy to give a list of FEMA documents and help with some of the insurance aspects. Jason said for RON to send any insurance questions to Judy, and they'll get it passed along.
- President Scott said thank you for all you did for us with this study

JACOB from PennDOT

- It's a bridge project, but because there is Bluegills, etc... we're adding inlets to convey the water from the road to the stream. We'll be added drainage features – inlets, etc. PENNDOT will be installing it, but the drainage maintenance would need to become the boroughs responsibility. Replacing a grate, cleaning the drains, etc. Dain Davis says it's okay. We're going through all these measures to maintain the town so they're asking for us to be willing to make sure we do our part to take care of the drainage system, President Scott said.
- Jane Pilch asked if they had a checklist of what things we would maintain?
- President Scott said it is part of the document sent to council in the summer. The solicitor is comfortable with it, Dain is comfortable, President Scott is comfortable. VP Pheasant asked is it more than what we do already? Ken Patterson said in his book, to get rid of the water – it's worth it. He wouldn't want the water splashing on his house.

- Jacob said this is just a draft – we will be covering all costs of drainage if the borough's willing to maintain it. This is a standard agreement.
- Jacob said they'll be installing no parking signs along the corridor as well.
- President Scott said that that entire block will have a downhill drain flow so it won't puddle
- Ken Patterson asked how deep are they? Jacob said I think some have 10 or 12 feet of fill over them, but it's relatively flat up there currently. Jacob said also the drainage at the intersection will be improved.
- Tabled until December – VP Pheasant said we received it in May 2023 so council can go back and look over it
- Jacob said okay this isn't pressing right now, but it will be coming
- Mike Peters said this sounds pretty standard to me

Brief Updates President Scott

Arborist Sam planning to attend December meeting and giving a presentation

Budget – the budget that was presented and we advertised, this is the moment of final adoption. President Scott asked for a motion,

Ron Kuntz asked council to consider adding something to the budget for traffic control – maybe contracting with the Sheriff's Office. There would have to be something in the budget for that... I didn't see anything in there for that, so I wanted to make that comment.

President Scott said we appreciate you sharing that and the budget is just a guideline that we utilize. Ron said I just don't want there to come an opportunity we miss because there's no money in the budget for it. I think the last couple month's we've seen a bit of reduction in the speed in town. I don't know, maybe some of what council's implementing is helping to turn the tide. We're moving in the right direction.

VP Pheasant on there we have equipment rental for \$5,000, what's that for? President Scott said that's in there for utilizing our maintenance workers equipment instead of our own. VP Pheasant said Ron after receiving your email I was looking at the budget to try and find wiggle room. There aren't a whole lot of things in here that aren't required payments. Ron said did we not run a surplus budget last year? He said our general funds grew by like \$29,000 - President Scott said we're trying to be very responsible for what we've been given

VP Pheasant made the motion to accept the budget as presented. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

On Sunday, November 19th there will be a Memorial Tree Planting that takes place at the park at 2:00 pm for Cody Shook

308 Main Street – they were served on October 24th we're awaiting a response. Tori Wilt asked the allotted time for their response, President Scott said their response is due by tomorrow. The solicitor will handle all of that, Tori Wilt said so he's taking care of that? Yes, Pres. Scott said.

Our secretary is still in position

Everything is positive on the other aspects moving forward

OLD BUSINESS

Porter/Alexandria Park – there's a sign that was installed that is contradictory to our meeting held in August. We said no sign. Tori Wilt asked what does the sign say, "Broad Top Medical Center" – they were granted permission after our meeting

The Holiday season is coming up and the events, Tori Wilt said regarding the luminaries we were looking at moving it the weekend after the tree lighting which is the first weekend in December. Finding help close is very difficult. How can we still have our community participate, we have better weather – that'd be Saturday the 9th – President Scott said I respect and know how busy you are, I've asked Jen Bellis to help with that. She said we have it on December 23rd – Tori said traditionally we had it on the 24th. Tori Wilt said she's happy to give the supplies to President Scott, Tori said just to be clear you're saying no to the 9th? Tori said why not the 9th? The 2nd is the tree lighting... the 9th doesn't impede on people's holiday, there's better weather. President Scott said she's been working on plans scheduling for the 23rd and Jen Bellis has been asked to help and Tori can help, everyone can participate, and we want to step up to the plate to help her. Every year I've proposed to do this, it's not about Tori, it's about the community. Last year you were not pleased with how it was handled, and you shouldn't be independently decisively on yes or no. I'm not okay with you making that decision. Tori is proposing we do it on the second weekend. President Scott said I understand things are difficult and we are working together to get things done for the community. In planning I didn't wait for today to decide on when to do it. VP Pheasant proposes that we make sure we have a committee of people interested in helping with this. Tori said the committee is Rachelle, Jen, and Tori. Tori Wilt said I can look at the notes. President Scott said I want us to all work together. Tori Wilt said if you want to take it over and do it, I'm not in favor of following suit, we have a limited amount of help on the 23rd. I don't want to make this into a debate, a stare down – Rachelle, Jen and Tori were. President Scott said we're going to move into Executive Session. Ron asked what's the reasoning? President Scott said there's plenty of reasons for Executive Session.

President Scott asked ... Before we go into Executive Session... any comment, President Scott asked. Ron Dively needs a signature to get a building permit started... Ron said that Brandon said he was at a standstill. VP Pheasant asked why is Brandon waiting on the building permit – President Scott said Brandon can do the building permit for you. VP Pheasant said we need to let Brandon know he doesn't need to wait on the building permit.

VP Pheasant asked do we have a scheduled time to take down the banners? Ken asked if they need him to haul the banners? President Scott said yes.

Jane Pilch said, dare I go back to the holiday committee – President Scott said, I want to go into Executive Session.. Jane asked are you the only one who can go into Executive Session? Dain Davis said if Executive Session is on the agenda, you can call it. Mike Peters said, if we're going to do it let's save it for the end.

President Scott said I have asked Jen to work on gathering to work on the sleigh ride tickets, presales, etc. it's the same thing as planning for last year. It'd be a presale of the wristbands, same scheduling as last year. They've already been scheduled for this year. Mike Peters asked what's the date for that? President Scott said December 23rd. Jane Pilch said you were under the impression it was on the 23rd as it had in the past and you do well planning ahead and preparing, then you, Tori are planning on the broader picture of everyone's schedule, which makes sense people get busy. Jane said is that a fair summary... Kim Diggins said is there a committee to do this, shouldn't they be doing it? President Scott said I wasn't made aware that I wasn't on the Christmas committee anymore. Tori Wilt said, I fold, I'm done we'll do it on the 23rd – I'm not doing the snyness, I will drop off the supplies to you and quite honestly you can figure it out. President Scott said numerous times I have tried to talk to you. Tori Wilt said I am not doing this in a public forum. President Scott said, why not? We're talking – I'd like Jen, who is part of the committee to speak. Let's let her talk. Tori Wilt said okay fine, go with the 23rd and I will give the supplies and you can do what you want. I wanted it on the agenda to say this is what we've talked about – it was icy and cold last year, the year before it rained, moving it earlier was to make sense. I feel chastised for bringing that up – I will respectfully move on. President Scott asked if Jen is comfortable – Jen said we had talked about the sleigh rides and all, we hadn't talked about the luminaries, but with some guidance I can do whatever. I would like to take input from someone who has done it before, it's been beautifully done and I don't want to take it and wreck it. I want to keep it about the community, not about who does it. Jen has some ideas about how it was done last year – if we can get everyone's involvement. Last year they didn't have much time – reaching out to our people's we did last year. Last year, I didn't want to do it as far as a committee – I had reservations and Tori I don't want to upset you, but I don't want to do it that same way because of how it went last year. President Scott said we need a motion if anyone wants to continue to do it. Mike Peters said you mean the whole thing? Sleigh ride... luminaries... President Scott said the community enjoys it, it's a beautiful thing. But based on this conversation that's quite surprising to me, does council want to move forward? Mike Peters, yes, I think we should. Jane said do we need a formal motion to move forward. VP Pheasant said, yes, it's already been in the plan, so yes... President Scott asked does anyone have plans with Jen helping? Jane said, oh no, we're too busy. Jen said I don't have problems taking over. VP Pheasant said as Tori mentioned you'll need help doing things, so reach out and we'll get help together. President Scott said we'll work together because it is about the community.

Ron said I need to know why you're going into Executive Session...President Scott said I don't need to give you any other answers – personal matters and real estate matters.

VP Pheasant okay so are we moving into Executive Session. President Scott dismissed everyone...

8:35 pm Executive Session called...

Jacob asked some questions to Judy and Dain then left.