

INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY (ITTS)
COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 17, 2023
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Committee: Chairman, Mr. Weiss, Ms. Burckley, Mr. Carminito, and Ms. Webb
Staff: Mr. Krack, Mr. Watson, and Ms. Getzfread

I. Call to Order at 7:03 pm.

II. Public Participation

Steve Young, resident. He asked about the next steps that would be taken with regard to the stormwater issues that occur in his neighborhood and on Melvin Road. He understands the Borough did not receive the grant funding they applied for and he is looking for guidance on how to see the feasibility study financed.

Leo Scoda, resident. He provided the background on a stormwater issue he experiences on Virginia Avenue. He stated he has been trying to get the issue resolved for the last two and a half years and is hoping something can be done as the water damages the road. He has had to replace tires on his vehicle and has hit a hump in the road caused by the water.

Mr. Watson addressed Mr. Scoda's concerns and explained the draining issues in the area and their impact on the swale in the cul-de-sac Mr. Scoda's house is located on.

Tom DeLuca, resident. He raised some concerns on the French Creek Trail as it relates to a crumbling fence near the Tague Lumber property, he asked who is responsible for the recycling center across from the new fire station. There is a very large mound of material and is unsure why it is allowed to get so high, and he inquired if there would be public participation again tonight at the end of the Agenda.

Mr. Krack explained the next steps for the French Creek Trail and the expected resolution to the crumbling fence, the property across from the fire station is overseen by the DEP and they make the determination on what can and can't be done at Cedar Hollow Recycling.

Mr. Weiss clarified there will be no Public Participation at the end of the meeting.

Mike Kajak, property owner. He stated he wanted it noted he was present for tonight's meeting.

III. Committee Member Updates/Discussions - None

IV. New Business

V. Infrastructure Updates

A. Demolition – 177 Church Street

Mr. Krack reported the sale of 177 Church to the Borough was recorded today in Chester County. Staff will be having the property surveyed to identify the exact property lines

between the building and the Senior Center. Demolition should begin next week with the property being fenced off for safety. The intention is to pave light and line stripe the property for surface parking of approximately 55 parking stalls to be available in the spring.

B. Stormwater Management

Mr. Krack did confirm the Borough did not receive any of the funding for the feasibility study or any of our other grant requests. He explained to the Committee the RACP Grant funds for the Recreation Center are coming closer and today Staff learned we could see payment as early as June of 2023. Funds from this reimbursement could be earmarked for the feasibility study if Council so chooses to do. Staff continues to look for any grant opportunities to help move the necessary projects forward in the Borough. In the meantime as we await the funds from the Office of the Budget, Council discretion, could use fund balance to conduct the feasibility study and then repay the expenditure with RACP dollars.

Ms. Webb asked about how the funding of the study would be requested and the amounts of funding the Borough would be receiving.

Mr. Krack explained the Borough has two RACP's with the Office of Budget. One for the Recreation Center in the amount of \$1.5 Million and the Fire Station in the amount of \$1.75 Million. The decision to fund the study is up to Council and would be discussed at the Finance meeting before being referred to all of Borough Council. He explained of the three sites in the study Valley Road would be the most expensive. It would require going under the railroad making it a several of million-dollar project. The other sites and will have to be evaluated to eliminate unintended consequences occurring from the repairs. Once we have the study we could then review the solutions.

Mr. Carminito stated that once the feasibility study determines the causes the Borough could be in position to compel properties contributing to the issue to fix it.

Mr. Krack stated a Motion from the committee to the Finance Committee is appropriate and then he can discuss the funding of the study with them next week.

Mr. Carminito made a Motion to recommend the Borough use fund balance to fund the feasibility study from the Borough Engineer in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to be reviewed by the Finance Committee at it's next meeting. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

Motion Approved 4-0.

VI. Transportation Updates

A. Review McMahon and RVE Engineering Reports

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Krack about the intersection of Nutt Road and Bridge Street as noted in the report from McMahon.

Mr. Krack reported on the Route 23 Corridor Study which reviewed Nutt Road (SR 23) from Whitehorse Road to Township Line Road. This study looked at the moving of TIP funding for a Traffic Signal at Nutt and Mason and moving it to the Paradise Street and Nutt Road intersection. The CMAQ Grant awarded to the Borough for the intersection of

Nutt and Starr, this project should be put out to bid in early February with an award target in the April time frame improving the intersection with a left-hand turn lane from Nutt Road onto Starr Street. The West Bridge and Nutt intersection is being worked on. The Borough has not received any recent updates from PennDOT but the monument was moved so they could begin the process of designing the changes to the intersection.

B. Starr and Nutt Intersection – Nothing additional to report.

C. Bridge and Starr Street Intersection

Mr. Krack reported we have an MTF Grant submitted for this location and a response has not been received back on the request to improve the intersection.

D. Paradise and Hall Street

Mr. Krack reported Paradise Street is still moving forward with the first phase being the section from the Fire House to Center Street. We have finding from the County for the project and money awarded for the Gay Street Streetscapes has also been shifted to the Paradise Street project. Hall Street is still in negotiations.

E. Mowere Road

Mr. Krack reported an MTF grant was submitted for this project as well. Staff is working toward securing all the necessary funding to reconstruct Mowere Road.

F. French Creek Trail

Mr. Krack stated Staff is aware of the crumbling fence on the Borough side of the trail. New fencing will be installed and the trail work should begin in February.

G. Tunnel Inspection Report

Mr. Krack stated the report was in the packet. It's currently being recommending by the Borough Engineer the tunnel be monitored. Valley Forge Railways is the owner of the property and it is there responsibility for any repairs.

Mr. Moore asked if the taxes are paid on the property's owned by Valley Forge Railways.

Mr. Krack stated the taxes on the properties are current.

Ms. Burckley asked about the next steps is it in the best interest of Council to ask Mr. Krack and the Solicitor to contact Valley Forge on the rail segments it owns.

Mr. Krack stated he and the solicitor will reach out again for a second meeting.

Mr. Carminito asked about Rails to Trails for the tunnel and how do we go about getting there.

Mr. Krack explained it would qualify for Rails to Trails. It is a very long somewhat scary tunnel and the first step to accomplishing a trail is ultimately site control.

H. Train Station

Mr. Krack explained the three-party authority formed by Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties to return train service to the Borough and other locations. Staff provided potential train station locations as requested by the County. Chester County will be putting together a Task Force and applying for the Federal Funding for the Rail Service from Reading to Philadelphia.

VII. Sustainability Updates

A. PXV NEO Project

Mr. Watson reported on the testing of the HTC equipment and next week testing will begin for sludge in the system.

B. EV Charging Stations

Mr. Krack reported we are progressing forward with the installation of more charging stations and Staff is preparing to apply for Grant Funding for the stations approved for installation in this year's budget.

C. Update regarding EV Recycling Truck.

Mr. Watson explained the Grant Funding available for the truck and we continue to crunch the numbers for the purchase or lease of the truck.

VIII. Technology Updates

A. Website

Ms. Straut presented an overview of the changes to the Website in this redesign and sent the committee members the information to view the mock site for themselves.

IX. Adjournment at 8:20 pm by Ms. Burckley.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm