

January 8, 2020
Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Chairman Robert H. Rohner, Jr. called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Also present were Theresa Laino, Vice Chairman, Aaron Springs, Supervisor, William Collins (Simone Collins), Joe Wallace (Simone Collins), Sula Jacobs, Park Superintendent, Leslie Morlock, Chief of Planning Park Service, April Niver, Economic Director for Congressman Matt Cartwright, Frank Mazza, Senator Toomey's office, Brian Snyder, Pike County Planning, Aimee Wechsler, Regional Manager for Senator Bob Casey, Steve Guccini,, Pike County Commissioner, MaryAnn Conza, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and Edwina Wolfe.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

FLAP GRANT:

William Collins began the meeting with an overview of the FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) application process and the project scope. Mr. Collins explained that Lehman Township applied for, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded Lehman Township \$267,000, which is to be matched locally by Lehman Township for \$66,000 - a total of \$333,000. The 3 tasks outlined in the FLAP application are: 1. Evaluate Fernwood for a potential park & ride. Previous Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) Superintendent John Donahue suggested that the Fernwood site be considered for its connection to US Route 209 and proximity to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA). 2. Implement highway, access, & pedestrian improvements in Bushkill Village. This task outlines new sidewalks in Bushkill Village, as well as crosswalks at the intersection of US Route 209 and Bushkill Falls Road to connect to the existing McDade Trail and include ADA access to the Peters House, an important landmark in Bushkill Village. 3. McDade bridge & trail to cross Bushkill Creek. This task will allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross Bushkill Creek without travelling in the shoulder of the highway on the existing bridge.

Mr. Collins explained that the Bushkill Village is an important southern portal to DEWA and was once a thriving village. Milford is the northern portal to DEWA. Mr. Collins explained that these 3 tasks are planning & preliminary engineering projects. Mr. Collins emphasized that an important question for the FLAP process is how this project fits into the DEWA Visitor Use Management Plan (VUMP) which is currently in its draft phase. The first draft of the VUMP did not identify Bushkill Village or acknowledge its importance as a portal to DEWA. Mr. Collins asked the group: "How will the FLAP / Bushkill study be integrated & recognized by the VUMP?" Lehman Township found it surprising that there was no mention of Bushkill Village or idea to toll entry to DEWA along US Route 209; the document was vague on how tolling would

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be implemented. Mr. Collins asked if the next VUMP draft can acknowledge the portals of Bushkill Village and Milford and asked if portals should be added to the next VUMP draft.

Sula Jacobs, Park Superintendent, explained that hundreds of comments have been submitted in response to the first VUMP draft. Ms. Jacobs explained that the VUMP project and the FLAP project should, and can be in alignment. She noted that it will take months to review and thoughtfully analyze the comments received and produce the next draft of the VUMP and noted the aggressive timeline for the FLAP project.

Mr. Collins noted that comments have been made by Lehman Township to the National Park Service to include the FLAP into the VUMP. Mr. Collins explained that the environmental assessment task is 10% of the project budget, and needs coordination with the National Park Service for this component. It is important to discuss whether National Park Service staff will complete some of this work, or consultant staff will complete some of this work. It is important to look at the FLAP project and understand the elements under National Park Service jurisdiction (archeology, environmental assessment). Mr. Collins noted that phase 1 archeology may be targeted to very specific sites, and it is important that the FLAP team work with the National Park Service. Mr. Collins stated that the FLAP team will need to work with the National Park Service to determine meetings which will serve as milestone markers for the project. Sula Jacobs explained that Leslie Morlock will be the primarily contact for this, and will work closest with the FLAP team on the project.

Mr. Collins noted that the FLAP schedule has been designed as a talking point, and that PennDOT will help refine further dates. April Hannon is the contact at PennDOT that coordinates all transportation alternative projects.

April Niver from Congressman Cartwright's office, stated that a map of all tasks within the FLAP project would be helpful. Mr. Collins confirmed that Simone Collins will send FLAP mapping with meeting notes to those in attendance. Lehman Township Supervisor Theresa Laino inquired who owns the current location of the Park & Ride. Mr. Collins explained that we don't know currently and will need to identify ownership. The project will use existing driveways and traffic counts. Mr. Collins explained that this project might be a catalyst for Lehman and Middle Smithfield Townships. While it is a transportation improvement – the remainder of the site should be viable for commercial development. Mr. Collins added that this project requires cooperation between Pike County, Lehman Township, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County Transit Authority and others. This park and ride might be an opportunity for greater access to the Bushkill Outreach.

Pike County Commissioner Steve Guccini asked what is the next step for the VUMP. Sula Jacobs and Leslie Morlock reiterated that it will take months to review all comments on the first VUMP draft. Steve Guccini asked what happens after the review of comments? Sula Jacobs

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noted that comments need to be thoughtfully analyzed – and the National Park Service cannot put a date out for that reason.

Mr. Collins noted that the VUMP is being developed as one element of the DEWA General Management Plan. Leslie Morlock noted the General Management Plan will still be an active document and that the VUMP will amend certain parts of this document.

Lehman Township Supervisor Aaron Springs asked when all 3 tasks within the FLAP will be completed. Mr. Collins responded that each task may potentially be completed independently and that an exact date can't be determined at this moment and for right now the FLAP can move forward.

Leslie Morlock noted that the VUMP identified alternative transportation elements as an important recommendation. This FLAP project and the VUMP can run parallel. The VUMP doesn't yet call out specifics (such as Bushkill Village) as there are many aspects to consider. Lehman Township Supervisor Aaron Springs asked if the park and ride could incorporate cooperation from New Jersey - Mr. Collins responded that right now this is a Pennsylvania project. Sula Jacobs commented that in the past there was a trailer to transport hikers from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, Leslie Morlock added this was discontinued due to the costly tolls.

Brian Snyder of the Pike County Planning Commission asked if this FLAP project will have to be on the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Mr. Collins explained that in certain funding situations it could be helpful to have this project on the NEPA TIP. Brian Snyder offered to help with this.

Members of the Park Service and representatives from Simone Collins left the meeting at this time.

APPROVE MEA, INC. PROPOSAL – REMOVAL OF SOIL PILE, COMMUNITY PARK:

Motion made by Ms. Laino and second by Mr. Springs to approve MEA, Inc to remove the soil pile at the community park at a cost of \$2,230.00. Unanimous.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF TRUCK:

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to purchase a 1995 GMC truck in the amount of \$18,000. Unanimous.

APPOINT ZONING HEARING BOARD MEMBER:

Motion made by Ms. Laino and second by Mr. Springs to appoint Joe Galayda to the zoning hearing board. Unanimous.

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APPOINT MEMBER TO VACANCY BOARD:

Motion made by Ms. Laino and second by Mr. Springs to appoint Arthur Garris to the vacancy board. Unanimous.

ADDENDUM NO. 1:

Ms. Laino brought up concerns regarding the Bushkill Post Office to the respective representatives from Senators Casey and Toomey and Congressman Cartwrights offices. The post office is understaffed, over the holidays there was one (1) employee working alone in the post office for periods of longer than 12 hours at a time. Postal patrons were waiting in line for longer than one (1) hour to get their packages and conduct business. April Niver asked that the township submit a letter to Congressman Matt Cartwright's office.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to close the meeting at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Ann Conza
Assistant Secretary