

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Phil Spohn, Vice Chair at 6:35 p.m. at Town Hall.
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Members: Phil Spohn, Vice Chair, Niloo Aflatooni, Jerry Holum, Sandy Miller and Maia Simon (via phone); **Council Liaison:** Priscilla deLeon & Laura Ray; **Jr. Council:** Cole Hubert, Noah Hubert & Violet Whitley; **Staff Liaison:** Carol Schneider; **Absent Members:** Shaun Yanchuk and Robert Blasko. **Guests:** Rick Dusold, Dave Ross, Frederick & Margaret Segaline.
3. **Welcome New Member:** Sandra Miller
4. **Nominations of Officers:**
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair

Phil Spohn

We have to nominate chair and a vice chair. Kevin left us. I think he went to zoning, bigger fish to fry. I have a nomination.

Jerry Holum

I nominate you for president. I'd like to make a nomination for Phil.

Phil Spohn

Unfortunately, with my schedule. And looking at the schedule of our meetings, I know I can't make four this year, so I'm going to decline on that. But I would nominate Sandy. She's well versed in leading meetings and things like that. She has very good experience. And last time we were here, when I first started, a year ago, both Kevin and I were brand new. We were both brand new, and he did. He did a fine job.

Niloo Aflatooni

I said, I'll second for you.

Sandy Miller

Yeah, I'm not terribly interested. No, thanks. I am having my hip replaced in two months. I'm just not sure that I'm the person to do that.

Phil Spohn

Would you be willing to be vice?

Sandy Miller

Yes, I've never even attended a meeting. So, I feel that that's puts me at another level.

Maia Simon

I nominate Robert.

Jerry Holum

I second that.

Phil Spohn

He's not here.

Laura Ray

Roberts not here.

Phil Spohn

He's not here.

Laura Ray

We don't know that he'd be interested in being nominated.

Jerry Holum

So why don't we just hold off at the end of the meeting, see if he comes.

Niloo Aflatooni

Miss Maia, are you interested?

Phil Spohn

You have to unmute yourself. I don't know if you heard that, Maia?

Maia Simon

I did not hear that.

Niloo Aflatooni

Are you interested to be, to be a chair?

Phil Spohn

Maia, are you interested in being the chair-person?

Maia Simon

First of all, my name is Maia, okay.

Phil Spohn

I'm sorry.

Maia Simon

The way you remember that is hi ya Maya. So, I have too many medical things going on right now. I have lost the entire month of January to illness, and I'm getting ready to start immunoglobulin infusions, and I just am not reliable.

Phil Spohn

Okay, no, thank you. How so how would it work? If I connect in the way that that my is connecting. Would the Vice Chair run the meeting?

Sandy Miller

I totally agree.

Phil Spohn

Okay, so I'll reconsider, and the possibility exists that I could definitely zoom I'm going to be away June, July and August, but I would have to zoom.

Maia Simon

Maybe you and I could split it. We could be co-chairs.

Phil Spohn

Right now, on the floor. Sandy Miller is a new member who has experience with community representation and community groups. I'm glad to be Chair if she's willing to be Vice Chair.

Sandy Miller

I would be willing to.

Phil Spohn

Do you have a second?

Carol Schneider

The motion is Phil - you would be chair and Sandy would be vice-chair.

Niloo Aflatooni

Sure, I second.

Phil Spohn

All in favor. Any questions? All in favor say Aye.

Parks and Recreation Board

Aye.

Phil Spohn

There you go. Okay, great, thank you. Okay. Motion carries.

Sandy Miller

I can do that.

Phil Spohn

That would be great.

MOTION: Phil motioned to be Chair if Sandy would be Vice Chair, Sandy agreed.

SECOND: Niloo, passed 5-0-2 (Robert & Shaun absent).

5. Approval of December 3, 2024 Minutes

Phil Spohn

The minutes are attached. One of the things I'm going to suggest, which I suggest to Kevin, and I'm glad to take notes on this. It can be quite labor some to read through the entire minutes. But can we pick out if we have an action item, that's what I would like to lift out and have on this, this cover sheet of who said they were going to do what by our next meeting. So, we're going to just extrapolate that information from these we won't do it now, but I'm willing to keep track of that. And all of us should have our ears open to say, hey, someone said they're going to do something for our next meeting. Who's doing it and what's being done, and it'll save time if you have to read through all the details of the minutes.

Sandy Miller

I can do that.

Phil Spohn

Any questions on the minutes? Can we have an I have a motion to accept the minutes as printed?

Jerry Holum

I, so move.

Phil Spohn

Jerry moves, Niloo seconds All in favor?

Parks and Recreation Board

Aye.

Sandy Miller

I'll abstain, I was not on the Parks & Recreation at the time.

Phil Spohn

Okay, understand fair.

MOTION: Jerry

SECOND: Niloo, motion passed 4-1-2 (Robert & Shaun absent).

Jerry Holum

Question, yeah, before we go any further, Sandy is new? Does that mean she assumes Kevin's responsibilities as they relate to the parks?

Phil Spohn

We probably should review the park update when we get there to see if anybody wants to switch around. That's a good question. Thank you.

6. Presentations:

1. Discussion and Recommendations - LR Aument LLC to Prepare Plans for the Heller Barn Reconstruction Phase II
2. Discussion and Recommendations - LR Aument LLC to Prepare a Master Site Plan for the Heller Homestead Park

Phil Spohn

Okay, we have a presentation tonight, and it's in the packet, but it's also screen for people to see. And Priscilla, are you? You're going to be the facilitator making a presentation, and that this was also attached to the packet at the at the back. Okay, it's all yours.

Priscilla deLeon

Can you hear me, everybody? Let me just figure this out.

Phil Spohn

They've been working really well.

Priscilla deLeon

They sound louder, yeah.

Carol Schneider

And then just let me know when to move the slides.

Priscilla deLeon

I don't know. I know that, but I don't know.

Carol Schneider

The button looks like an Asterix, you press that for the pointer.

Priscilla deLeon

Okay, got it? Okay. Hello everybody. Good evening. Thank you for having me on your agenda. I want to take this opportunity; my name is Councilwoman Priscilla deLeon. With me tonight is council president Laura Ray, and we have Rick Dusold In the back. He's on the conservancy board.

Maia Simon

Will you please speak into the microphone, Priscilla?

Priscilla deLeon

How's that? Can you hear me better?

Maia Simon

That's better. Thank you.

Phil Spohn

How about we put this down? I wonder if this would help. Put Are you on and just make sure you're on mute. Maya, when you're not speaking.

Priscilla deLeon

I am here tonight to talk about restoring the hell or barn at the Heller Homestead Park, and it's including an open space master plan. The Heller Homestead Park is approximately 14 acres, located just off the popular Saucon Rail Trail, along with Saucon Creek, we're looking to make it a destination for people. So, I would like to start with Heller Homestead Park, the first slide I can't see. Okay, wait, go back to the first slide. Okay, the first slide shows the arch, which was our first phase, and it was in 2010 when the conservancy did that. So, that was back to 2010 ish. And then you see the two houses, the smaller ones, the widow's house or the tenant house, formerly known as and the other bigger house is the main house, or the Heller house. Okay, next. So tonight, we're here to discuss recommendations. And Lori Aument worked with us back in to do the first phase. She was working for John Milner associates at that time, and we decided that we at the Conservancy, decided to continue with the people that were the principals back then, even though they work for different people now. So, we're going to be going to council on the 19th and we're going to ask to approve plans for the Heller barn restoration phase two, and to prepare an open space master plan for the 14 plus acre homestead Park along the Saucon Creek, and also authorized Brien Kocher from Hanover Engineering and Douglas Reid historic structure consultant to provide advisory tech technical assistance as needed under the direction of interim manager Cathy Gorman. Okay, next slide please. Okay, the little bit of a history the Conservancy. I was one of the founding members. It was founded in 1993 it's a not for profit. It was dedicated to work in partnership, and it leases the 2.2-acre tract. Next mission statement, it preserves the unique historic and natural environment of the Saucon Valley as educational recreation. So, this definitely meets the mission next objectives, to restore the property and develop it as an educational and recreational programs and activities for the area. And then, you know, do a capital fundraising campaign. Next slide, please. And again, that's the homestead. Next that picture was taken by me, unknown date, sorry. And that shows along Friedensville Road, the Heller house, the widow's house, the herb garden and remnants of the barn, ruins. Next slide, please. That's a different angle, and again, it just talks about the ownership and the property. The main house, the Heller house, was built 1751 it was renovated in 1935 to reflect the popular trends of the colonial revival movement. Next slide, please. It represents one of the few pre-revolutionary colonial American farmsteads in our region. This picture, somebody could see their little car in there and no ear. It was to kind of tell you when the picture was taken, but anyway, it shows the magnificent English Lake District stone barn and how it was back then.

Phil Spohn

Can I ask a question?

Priscilla deLeon

Yes.

Phil Spohn

The remnants of that barn there behind the tree.

Priscilla deLeon

Correct by the car.

Phil Spohn

And is the desire to get it back to look, yes?

Priscilla deLeon

Yes, we want to recreate it to look exactly like it was the beautiful English Lake District barn.

Phil Spohn

And were the stones salvaged?

Priscilla deLeon

Well, the ones that didn't walk away and grow feet, you know what I mean, are stored in you'll see other pictures. And adjacent to the stone barn, there was a wood frame barn, and that was they had the foundation. So the stones were placed there. So, we're going to see how many we have. We can see whether, where else we can get more if we need them, and we can either rebuilt it to its magnificent route to the roof, or do it as we have stone so, okay, next slide please. Over the years, the Stever's, it was occupied and built by Michael Heller, who is some credit him as the founder of Hellertown. That's a whole other story. And then next the Stever's moved in, and you'll see Stever spelled s t e a v e r, or s t e, v e r, and he ran a saw mill and a farm. And you can see the wagon and the Stever descendants in there. And that picture was taken in 1915 and you see the widow's house has stucco on it, and it was kind of called the tenant house back then, and the hill going out of Hellertown was called Stever Hill. Next slide, please. The Geyer family, prominent family in the area, lived in the house. I forget the years to years, but that picture was 1934 and they're the ones that remodeled the house into the American rev, the Colonial Revival, and that's one of the reasons why it was listed on the National Register. Next slide, please. So, the Heller homestead Park is 13.96 acres. It's located adjacent to the western banks of the beautiful Saucon Creek west of Hellertown, it's listed on the National Register. There have currently benches and picnic tables. It's fishing. It has an interpretive which you have the maps. A lot of people do not know about that map. And there's a native trail, if you're interested, with a scenic overlook of the creek. It's very close to the Saucon Rail Trail, and so the links are on our website. So, if you can you're interested, go to hell or homestead Park. Okay, next, please. Other we have, I said, the widow's house, which was built in 1850 a root cellar mid-19th century, and the ruins of a large stone and frame barn built 1790 there's story behind that, which I will tell later. Remnants of the foundation, ruins of two small buildings, a wagon shed and wagon house are like located at Northwest so the property had all kinds of out buildings, and some of the pictures show them, and some of them just show Foundation, okay, next please. And again, that just tells a little bit about the property and the colonial revival movement, next please. And then when the conservancy was co-founded in 1993 we had to figure out what to do with all the rooms. So, we decided that we would furnish them per the people that lived there for the years that they lived there. The kitchen was from the 50's. If I remember the Nowicki's lived there, then I don't remember the neck the next one was the living room. Like no cigarette smoking living room. And then there was a Victorian living room. The furniture was everything was donated. And then there's a bedroom from the, I believe, 1700's Next please. Also, the widow's house is also period furnished, so that's kind of quaint inside. There. Next slide, please. The root cellar is my favorite, I think, mid-19th century. So, go ahead. Next slide, and the herb garden, which usually was found on a farmstead, go ahead. And then some activities from the homestead. You know we had an art gallery, and there were art exhibits. Next slide, we had young artist exhibits. We partnered with the school district and had their art classes, and they did an exhibit. It was really, really fun. And wish it could happen again. But anyway, okay, next slide, please. And then there were reenactments, and they would come set up tents for the in April and November and do cook outs and see the ruins in the background. Next slide, please. So, the SBC would like to improve the Heller barn ruin to make them safer and more accessible to the public. And I don't want. Read out the whole thing, but, you know, have it more for the community. Like to have movie nights, there exercise classes, weddings, you know, photographs, all kinds of It's the limit. You know, whatever you want. And the stone barn ruins have the potential to provide 1500 square feet of unique outdoor gathering space inside the barn would be capable of seating 75 people. Okay, next slide, please. So, I have two requests. This is the first one, and it would be to request a letter of support from this board to support the initiative, and so you know, open to suggestions, recommendations, and to support, to support this and next slide. And does anybody have any questions?

Phil Spohn

Yeah, in the presentation that Carol sent out, there's the grants. Was that to be tied in with this funding for this?

Priscilla deLeon

Well, we have the open space money.

Phil Spohn

DCNR grants.

Priscilla deLeon

No, that has nothing to do with this project at the moment. I'm not saying in the future it might not. No, there's open space money that we, all, you know, paid, and they change the regs, and there's a letter on the table from Clemons and on the next slide, and I'll tell you more about that. But money is available there to fund this part.

Sandy Miller

You talk about preparing plans...

Phil Spohn

You need to speak into the mic, because it's being recorded.

Sandy Miller

I apologize to everyone. So, where you have under number one, you have a and b. Do we have any budget or any idea what those two things will be?

Priscilla deLeon

This is brand new off the block. So, we're going to council on the 19th. And so, I'm we're hitting the boards. So, next we're going to the EAC to get support, and then we're going to present this concept and vote on it at the meeting of the February 19th.

Sandy Miller

So, I'm gonna ask again, if you're going to the council to ask for them to do something, do you not have to have \$1 figure on how much that will to cost to do those two things?

Priscilla deLeon

Where is that slide?

Sandy Miller

It says, prepare plans.

Priscilla deLeon

We have to authorize Lori Aument to prepare a cost estimate and to prepare the plans and see what it's going to cost.

Sandy Miller

But there's no, we won't be incurring any cost for Lori to do that work?

Priscilla deLeon

The way it stands, if you read the letter from Terry Clemons. The second page down at the bottom, it says that money is now legal to use to pay for, I don't have the exact language in front of me to pay for design work and engineering costs and whatever. So, that wouldn't be a township expense. It would come out of the open space money that we have.

Phil Spohn

Yes, there's 12 million available in the open space, but you still don't have an idea of what her fees would be?

Priscilla deLeon

I have no idea.

Sandy Miller

Well, okay.

Priscilla deLeon

We'll find out.

Sandy Miller

Well, she should have, I mean, I'm not trying to be difficult at all.

Priscilla deLeon

No, I'm curious.

Sandy Miller

She should have a proposal about her services are going to be and how much they're going to cost and what they cover.

Priscilla deLeon

That's what we're authorizing her to do. She's not going to do that work. If Council doesn't want her to. She has to put a plan together.

Sandy Miller

Well, no, when you're going to incur that level of expense, I would have, I would expect her to say, for me to do this work, it'll be a \$5,000 amount for me to do this work. And then we would say, yes or no, we will cover your 5000

Priscilla deLeon

We're asking her to prepare that cost figure.

Sandy Miller

Okay, so you're asking her for the cost figure that'll be separate.

Maia Simon

I can't hear anybody except Priscilla.

Priscilla deLeon

All right, let me go back to that slide. So, we're directing her to prepare the following plans to prepare. And I guess it's wording should be in here, but it's to prepare an estimated proposal for the cost she will be authorized to do that. Everything's not on here.

Phil Spohn

I see her credentials that she said she's helped other places, what she should be able to give me a ballpark figure of what it would cost, which I think council would probably want.

Priscilla deLeon

She's waiting to hear from council to outline what they want in the plan. Right now, it's open ended. I mean, this is just us putting on paper what we think we may want. You know what I'm saying? I might go to the meeting, and you know somebody else might want something else. So, we don't know how comprehensive the plan is going to be.

Sandy Miller

I see.

Priscilla deLeon

You know what I'm saying. We know that the barn has to be restored, but we figured while we were doing that, we would also do the open space plan to facilitate and expand it more towards the community. And so, we don't know if what projects are going to be added to the list or delete it from the list. So, we won't know that till we go to council to see if the concept is accepted. So, once a concept is accepted, then they will direct her to, you know, include different things I don't know. Am I helping?

Phil Spohn

I support the idea a group spaces of 75 people are in big demand, and to have something in one of the parks where people an indoor facility where they could use, utilize that's a nice feature.

Priscilla deLeon

Okay.

Jerry Holum

Maybe you can explain some of this stuff to me.

Phil Spohn

I think you're probably going to have to speak right into the mic, Jerry.

Jerry Holum

Slide five, the objectives that Saucon Valley Conservancy has. Are they being accomplished?

Priscilla deLeon

We're trying. They're trying. What do you mean they are I mean...

Jerry Holum

Well, number one is to restore the Heller Homestead and property. What is left, except the barn, to restore? I mean, we just spent all of this money on windows for widow house. We spent the money for it, for the sidewalk. They painted the house. What other things are needed in order to completely restore it, besides the barn?

Priscilla deLeon

I don't have that list in front of me. The township is responsible for fixing things. That's why they painted the windows and fix the windows. And they're the property owner. The lease says that the Conservancy is supposed to do restoration projects as they have money. So, COVID really hit bad, and, you know, really put a hurting on a lot of nonprofits. So, I don't know. That's not really answering you, but I don't really know Jerry. I just know that the barn is next on the list.

Jerry Holum

How about the second point? Develop, educational, recreational.

Phil Spohn

No, the same slide you had by objectives.

Jerry Holum

Which utilizes historic significance and natural resources. So, I don't know, I read through all of this stuff, and I have a lot of questions. It appears that there's steps that we're taking. This is step number two. It appears that step or plan number one has already been completed.

Priscilla deLeon

Of the barn arch?

Jerry Holum

No.

Priscilla deLeon

Are you talking about the arch?

Jerry Holum

Maybe I'm getting ahead of myself. It's, number two, I thought there were different steps we were taking. Number one was clearing the area of debris, taking all that stone out there. I know that the Public Works did this

somewhere down there, they cleaned that whole area out, put the stone on the side, so part of that was also stabilizing that was supposed to be done. Was there a stabilization?

Priscilla deLeon

There was no architectural plans to direct how that was supposed to be done. And the concept was there, the want was there, but we needed somebody that knew what they were doing to tell us how to do it, because we're all just volunteers.

Jerry Holum

How about how about the third objective, how successful has Saucon Valley Conservancy been in order to create more capital funding? Have they done anything?

Priscilla deLeon

Well, we had barn tours. I left the organization as president in I don't know, what year did we leave? And they had art shows and various ways of raising money.

Jerry Holum

So, they have they have capital money to supplement some of this?

Priscilla deLeon

Well, how big is some of it? I can't answer that question.

Jerry Holum

You're talking, you're in, you're in a neighborhood of ballpark to do what they want, but anyway....

Laura Ray

But having a goal of what you're trying to create would be what the plan is for. It would help with fundraising so people can see, oh, we want to restore or create this outdoor space.

Priscilla deLeon

Yeah, we don't have that.

Laura Ray

Yeah.

Jerry Holum

How about slide 22? Active part of the site capable of hosting a variety of revenue generating program. Don't you think that this is a duplicate? A lot of these, most of them are duplicates of programs we already have at our other parks. Maybe you can explain it, movie nights for example, we have new movie nights now at our parks in the summer time. So that's something we have exercise classes. We had exercise classes at our community center. I remember when Betty Tarkum used to use them, but there wasn't any interest, and they weren't continued. So, exercise class, music events. What kind of music events we'll be talking here?

Priscilla deLeon

Jerry, these were just ideas. I don't have the specifics. We were just sitting around a table, like we are tonight, thinking of, well, what could we do with this site? And, you know, just because they're having someplace else doesn't mean we can't have them too. So, wedding pictures, people are always looking for a beautiful place to take wedding photos.

Jerry Holum

And well, I don't think we're gonna outdo the Hellertown Historic Society for taking wedding pictures. I mean, what would they take wedding pictures of here an arch? That's about all we have. Well, they could take a picture in front of the house or something like that. But I'm sure they already do that.

Priscilla deLeon

I don't know.

Jerry Holum

You know, wedding ceremonies. I mean, in our parks, if you're going to if the end result is for 75 people, we have the ability in our parks, two of our parks have double or triple that size of people that they can, they can accommodate. So, we have that stuff already. I don't see the need for something like this, because we have, we have the things already dancing. I'm not sure what dancing at all about.

Priscilla deLeon

Well, this that 75 people is inside the restored barn ruins. It's not counting outside space. There's a lot of space outside for different programs, for nature and just different other activities that could be held.

Phil Spohn

Does the does the Saucon Valley Conservancy also run the grist mill?

Priscilla deLeon

No, it's a separate entity.

Phil Spohn

What is that?

Priscilla deLeon

The Grist Mill is the Hellertown Historical Society, and then Lower Saucon Township historicals, the school house, and then the Heller Homesteads, the Saucon Valley Conservancy.

Jerry Holum

Also, like nature programs we already have, the Conservancy already has some nature programs they have, like the bird watching program.

Phil Spohn

I think the issue...

Jerry Holum

At our parks we have, we have sessions in the summertime where they do that. I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, Carol, but out here at Lower Saucon, we have a program in the summer where they have lectures and stuff at two different sessions. One is like identifying plants, they have two sessions, and then they have another one, or at least last year, looking at the past.

Phil Spohn

I think that how it's used is, you know, will develop. But the question is, you're looking for support from this team to say, we, this team supports this concept?

Priscilla deLeon

Moving forward?

Jerry Holum

Yeah. And what I'm saying, Phil is...

Maia Simon

Can you hear me?

Priscilla deLeon

I can.

Maia Simon

May I speak for a moment. I have two things. First of all, the only person I can hear is Priscilla, so I really beg each of you to speak directly into a microphone. The second thing is, is what I think I understand is Priscilla is asking for the board to recommend to the council that they look into this and take the next step. And it seems to me that we don't need to know how it's going to end in order to say yes, we want to take the next step. Now maybe I'm not understanding, because I haven't heard much, but that's what I wanted to say.

Margaret Segaline

Can I say something where?

Phil Spohn

But you need to go to the microphone at the podium and introduce yourself, please? Yeah, I know it has to do with the phone.

Margaret Segaline

Margaret Segaline, Lower Saucon Township. In the past, I was involved with the Heller homestead years ago. And in the past, what happened was because it, it belongs to the township. Everybody had to approach the township for permission to do anything. And so that's all that's being done. It's just, and you're, I don't know who's on the phone, but you're absolutely right. That's all this is just asking for somebody to say, this is how much I would, I would quote for the work that you know, for the study that needs to be done to come up with a potential estimate. It's not really any more than that, as far as the activities that would go on in the barn that's inside and the venues that the township currently has available are not really, technically inside. They're only covered by a roof, right? Because they have no walls, the ones that I think we're referring to on the outside, and so the barn would have walls. So that would be a benefit to having dancing and movies and things like that, because I've been to the to the movies outdoors, and unfortunately, it was either too hot or it would start to rain, and then they'd have to close it down. So, there's, there's a definite advantage to having an indoor type venue like this, and if you run it, there's a lot of money to be had, and the Grist Mill is doing well with running out their space, and so that's really helped them a lot anyway. Thank you.

Priscilla deLeon

Thank you, Margie, thank you. I guess Cathy and I will work on better language for that first slide with what to put on the council agenda. So, thank you for that. This is the first stop. So, I'm learning here.

Phil Spohn

Any other comments? What slide is? Do you have it written out? What you're exactly looking for this group to do?

Jerry Holum

Are we going to go through that Master Site Plan letter?

Priscilla deLeon

I'll have another real quick slide. So, the next part of this is the restoration phase two. Go ahead and again, like I said, I will definitely work on this. But bottom line is a support letter of some sort supporting the concept of this. So, go ahead and. Again, that's a picture that you saw before. That was stabilization phase 1 2010, go ahead. And that's what it looked like before, after the collapse in 1998 Go ahead. It's a Pennsylvania German barn. It was in the book Pennsylvania German barn by Dormbush is a very popular book, and John Hill Professor Bob Ensmeger, who we owe so much gratitude, and whatever he was on the Saucon Valley Conservancy board, well respected. And He also continued and rewrote that barn book, and they called him the godfather of Pennsylvania barn. So, we all respect it, man. We were very lucky to have him until he passed several years ago. Next slide. So, one night, I was strolling through the internet, and I couldn't sleep, and I was all upset over the meadows, road bridge. So somehow, I put in the Google thing stone, I must have typed stone barn instead of stone bridge. And pops up the library. I was in the Library of Congress. I was scared. I thought, oh no, I'm going to be arrested. Get in the Library of Congress. But anyway, in there were these three photographs, and they were from 1941 and they showed three views. And I kept looking at this barn, thinking, I know this barn. I know this barn. Next slide please. And you can see, I can that doesn't show on the thing. Why doesn't it show anyway? You see the

first picture, and this thing is called a pen. And we always wondered, and I'll show you when we get to the other picture, but we always wondered why there was a hole in the arch, and we figured out that's how they connected the pen. And I'm looking, and I saw there was this, like, like cross thing, like metal rod that they would put, like, to hold buildings together, and I'm looking and I'm thinking, I know that. I know that. Well, here, this is the Heller barn, but it was called stone barn in Heller town, so, so this picture, these pictures were taken in 1941 and you can see the magnificent stone barn, but next to it was a frame barn, and this is the inside. And you can see the gigantic beams and wood and whatever that was inside. Here's another angle of it. And it was a, had to be a large farming operation for the size of these two buildings. And this was when the Geyer's lived there, they called that their playhouse, and they named it the Apache's. So, I thought that was kind of cute. Next slide, and there's the pen roof. You can see and see the anyway you can read the slides. So go ahead, and there's, like I said, another picture of it. Go ahead, the inside again, and it's a Type E in Northampton County that was in that book. Go ahead. And then over the years, I've collected different pictures. I love this picture with it in the snow, and you can see an out building. It's undated. I don't know who, where it came from. Go ahead and again. There's that other picture with the it represents a few revolutionary colonial farm Steads. Next slide. Another snow picture, next slide. So now we start with when I got involved with the township in 1988 Hovnanian was Building Society Hill, and they had to give the township open space land to build their complex. And they gave us the 14 acres along the creek, which, again, had this beautiful barn which had the size of a hole about the size of a baseball in the roof, and nobody would fix it. And it just got bigger and bigger and bigger until half of it collapsed. And that picture was taken around 1993 by me, and that's the front of the barn, if you if you look, there's like cracks going down here. So, it was kind of weak. Somebody over I read a lot of stuff. There was a beam going across that they cut for the hayrick or something. And I think they weakened the barn when they did that so they didn't know. So, go ahead. Next slide, that's the back. Go ahead, that's another picture of the front. And I would see these little holes. That's what the pen roof was hooked into. And this section here, where the arches was an addition to this barn. So. Because this was for wagons. So, this was eventually filled in by the whoever filled it in over the years. We know in 1941 it was filled in, but they would put wagons in there, and that's how they would load them. So next slide again, that was another picture. Go ahead, and that's the other side. Go ahead. And then you come to February 26, 1998 I'll never forget this date. In the aftermath of a severe storm, a portion of the roof collapsed, steaming. It a danger, the township decided to bring down all but 1/3 of the barn. Fortunately, the arch was saved from demolition and stands proudly among the ruins of this English Lake District barn in Saucon Valley. So go ahead and you can see it was just gut it, the rest of it. What shouldn't really have to come down? That was political decision, in my opinion. And I'll say that till I die. Next slide. And again, like you can see, most of the barn was still there, and this part that was weakened by the crack collapsed next slide, and there's that little hole again, which we finally figured out what it was next slide. And then all this stone was taken and put into the foundation of the wood barn. Go ahead. Go ahead. And that's just from one of the barn tours that we had with a little horse. Thought I'd throw him in there to say hi. Go ahead. So the barn tours money raised was ear marks for the preservation, and we did use it to do phase one of the art. Go ahead. That's a better picture, I guess, over the years. But you see all the openings, the doorways and windows and everything that was just, I think, too much for that, that front wall, you know, go ahead. And then that was another out building, go ahead. And then Lockridge furnace. It's beautiful there, and you see the ruins of this like, you know, the possibilities are endless out there. What can happen to this barn. So, go ahead and this. This was something else that I found too, from Washington and Lee University. Go ahead and then actually on the National Register. Now go ahead and we're back to the barn, and I'm ready for questions. Join us and help us save another treasure, for more information, or become a member. Contact the Saucon Valley Conservancy and again. Thank you. But I'll take any more questions.

Jerry Holum

In our packet was a letter that was written by the consultant. That was written by the consultant, surname.

Priscilla deLeon

Lori Aument.

Jerry Holum

Which is a very, very interesting letter in that it was written back and 24 mid 2024 and do you have it in front of you? Because I have some questions. It actually, I think it's very good. And there's one point in it that should be

highlighted in the in the conversation. But anyway, that she makes statements in here about the Heller Homestead is the only county property without an outdoor gathering space. What is that?

Priscilla deLeon

She wrote the letter? I don't know. I can ask her.

Jerry Holum

And she makes her recommendations. Are we following her recommendations? I mean, we paid for this we study, are we? Are we following her recommendation?

Priscilla deLeon

Well, so far, we are. I mean, we want to get into the nitty gritty when we get this expanded plan now.

Jerry Holum

What her recommendation is to move forward with small, visible improvements. Which sounds like a reasonable goal and she makes points about the structure itself. As it relates to those walls. I don't know how many people have been down there recently to see that site. Anybody down there? Have you been down Phil?

Phil Spohn

Yeah, Since I saw this.

Jerry Holum

Did you notice anything catch your eye in there?

Phil Spohn

Behind the fence?

Jerry Holum

Yeah, everything's behind the fence, right?

Phil Spohn

I was just interested in where all the stone would be. That's a lot of stone.

Jerry Holum

But the condition of walls. Did you look at any conditions of the walls? And she points out here that they're all unstable. They certainly are, right. They're all unstable.

Priscilla deLeon

Well, they're deteriorating every, every day. We're not going to have anything left if we don't do something soon.

Jerry Holum

So, all the walls, all the walls would probably have to be rebuilt.

Phil Spohn

Oh, if you're going to have it look like it did in those pictures, absolutely.

Jerry Holum

Which would mean you would have to put foundations.

Priscilla deLeon

Not necessarily.

Jerry Holum

Well, that barn wasn't built on a foundation.

Priscilla deLeon

No, that's what I'm saying. They're going to replicate how it was built originally.

Jerry Holum

Well, that'd be, as it may, but her road map is the best part with this whole report. Best part, develop a financial road map. All right. It points out at this point; it appears the Heller barn project may proceed with the following phases. And she went, she goes through the stages. What stage or what phase are we at now?

Priscilla deLeon

Jerry, I don't have the letter in front of me. I'm sorry. We're at the phase where we...

Phil Spohn

He's talking about three, four.

Jerry Holum

It's the best part of this whole report. They're telling you to engage with a cost estimator who can develop a budget for future phases of the Heller project. The cost estimator can provide cost both design and construction should include the following, right. At this point, it appears to Heller project may proceed with the following phases. Now we got this letter at Saucon Valley Conservancy. What phase are we at? I mean, you're going to go before Council, and I imagine those couple of those fellows are really going to rip this apart.

Priscilla deLeon

She (Lori Aument) is going to have an additional letter. This isn't her last letter. She's working on it now. So, that's why I'm at a loss, because I'm not her, and I don't have the other letter in front of me. This is just an initial letter, so she's going to expand all these, these bullet points, and the cost estimator will look at what they've developed and then break it into phases so that we can proceed. You know, with the money amounts that we need to get to the to the end.

Jerry Holum

We haven't accomplished phase one yet. In her letter, we haven't accomplished.

Priscilla deLeon

Well, we did with the Phase One for the arch. But now this is a new phase one with the with the other walls that that, you know, surrounding the east side, the west side, the south side, that they're all crumbling.

Jerry Holum

So, phase one was the arch. That's done, and part of the phase two, I envision, is removing all that debris. I would imagine she's going to put phase two is something we accomplished so far.

Priscilla deLeon

She might need to re number those phases, because you're bringing up a good point. We considered the arch as phase one. You know what I'm saying. So, that might need to be changed. I don't know, but the concepts there.

Sandy Miller

So, when the arch, sorry, microphone, I'll get better, I promise. So, phase one is that when you say the other masonry walls, the only part that's been stabilized is the actual arch, the remaining walls that are very limited up, I don't even want to call them walls, but the remaining part of that structure is what we're talking about for the emergency stabilization that she has here for her first phase one, and then the Phase two would be built with the stone that's currently there. The arch and stabilization project has nothing to do with what we're talking about tonight.

Priscilla deLeon

The other thing is we have to do structural engineering to see how, how much load it can take. And we don't know that yet, you know what I'm saying, but there's methods that they can inject limestone mortar into spaces

that have decayed over winter months with ice, and, you know, all that kind of stuff to make it solid again, without, without building a foundation.

Jerry Holum

Sandy. Here's what the site looks like today. There are pictures.

Priscilla deLeon

I don't know who this was.

Phil Spohn

Any other further discussion on that question. Do you want me to craft a letter, which I would be talking to Priscilla about, and what she wants in that letter to take with you to council? Is that correct? Priscilla? What's that take that letter?

Priscilla deLeon

If you vote on it tonight, and draft the letter and finalize it, and by the vote, and then we have for our next meeting. Was, Carol of February 19th? So, we'll need it the week before the 19th for the council packets, which is next week, right? Oh, my God, it's coming around. What the boards?

Laura Ray

They wouldn't know what we can vote, or they can vote to do a letter, but won't know what it is until it's written.

Priscilla deLeon

Well, the concept. Phil, what would we recommend?

Phil Spohn

I would ask Priscilla for that writing.

Jerry Holum

What writing?

Phil Spohn

The actual wording of what she's looking for.

Priscilla deLeon

It could be very simple as supporting the concept of the whatever that first slide was.

Sandy Miller

I'm new so I'm not trying to, but I would be willing to, like, make a motion that we write a letter of support for the proposal phase of this project. I would not be comfortable saying that I'm going to support the entire vision that is laid out.

Priscilla deLeon

I understand that.

Sandy Miller

Because you know, first of all, I think that would be the right step anyway, to look at it. So, you know, I would be willing to, like, make a motion tonight that we write a letter in support of the proposal phase, and that it would help us determine the amount that would cost for the completed study, as well as projected project costs.

Jerry Holum

Sandy, why wouldn't we just take a no position until we see the estimated cost when we take a no position?

Sandy Miller

That is an option, but the option that we were given was whether or not to write a letter in support of the project. I'm willing to do step one of the proposals, versus going more fully in as was originally proposed.

Niloo Aflatooni

I second your first one, I second what you wrote.

Sandy Miller

It seems a moderate step to take, to look at the expense, get a feel just for the proposal, and then you can bring it back to us, and then we can put a full letter of support and backing of the entire project. At that point.

Priscilla deLeon

You're supporting the project so far, but we don't know until we get to the next part.

Sandy Miller

So, we have an idea what we're really supporting. I don't feel confident. I don't know any further, and I wouldn't want to go to the council saying that I supported something that I don't even know what I'm going to be supporting. So, you know, write a letter that, yes, we support the Investigation Phase, proposal phase, whatever you want to call it, to determine the scope of work, the amount of work of Lori, the cost of her which will ultimately deem the scope of work and cost of the full project.

Priscilla deLeon

That makes sense.

Phil Spohn

So, do we have a second?

Niloo Aflatooni

Yes.

Phil Spohn

Any questions. All in favor, say, aye.

Parks and Recreation Board

Aye.

Phil Spohn

Opposed.

Jerry Holum

Present.

Phil Spohn

Okay.

Priscilla deLeon

We heard your Maia.

MOTION: Sandy motioned for Parks & Recreation to write a letter in support of the proposal phase, and that it would help us determine the amount that would cost for the completed study, as well as projected project costs.

SECOND: Niloo, passed 4-1-2 (Robert & Shaun absent).

Phil Spohn

Okay, so I will draft a letter. Is it common that I would send it out to this group before I submit it to council? That would that be copasetic?

Priscilla deLeon

Okay? Thank you everybody, and I'm around for questions as normal.

Phil Spohn

Okay, let's get back to our page. Thank you. Thank you for the work you put into that.

Phil Spohn

Any citizen, non-agenda items? Anyone want anything presented? We have no special events application. So, now what we do is we look at our parks.

5. **Jr. Council:** (Cole Hubert, Noah Hubert & Violet Whitley) - Nothing to report

6. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** None

7. **Special Event Applications:** None

8. **Park Updates:**

Phil Spohn

These are the parks that we're responsible for. And as you can see, Kevin is responsible for two if we want to have. If somebody wants to change, let's talk about that. So, we go first with Town Hall Park. Anything along with Town Hall Park?

1. **Town Hall (Niloo)** - No discussion.

2. **Southeastern Park (Sandy)** - No discussion.

3. **Kingston Park (Sandy)** - No discussion.

Phil Spohn

Okay, so Southeastern Park and Kingston Park. Kevin had. Do you know? Where? Do you know?

Sandy Miller

I know where Southeastern is that by the fire station is?

Phil Spohn

It's right across the street.

Sandy Miller

I know where that is. I have no idea where Kingston Park is.

Jerry Holum

Lutz Franklin. The Lutz Franklin school? Oh, yes, right behind there.

Phil Spohn

Yeah, very small. You are talking tiny, very small. Okay.

Jerry Holum

The pavilion holds probably about 45 people are at Kingston. It's not a very big park.

Sandy Miller

I haven't been there since it's been the debate about moving the moving it 30 years ago. anywhere near that area until there was a huge debate with the school district about moving it and whether we were taking it to we were going to move it to school district property.

Laura Ray

I remember that, do you want? Do you want to be responsible for those two?

Sandy Miller

I will take those two. Okay, great. They're the farthest from where I live, but I will gladly. I could walk to this park. You do know that? Right?

Phil Spohn

Well, let's see which one. Well, has this one.

Sandy Miller

I'll do it. No problem. It's good for me to get out.

4. Sandra Yeager Community Recreation Area (Phil)

Phil Spohn

I walk this regularly, and I had kept bringing up that they have these circle things. Well, I did get a report on what they're doing. And the concept is they had, they within that zone, they used a herbicide or something, killed everything, and then they plant. They're planting the indigenous trees and things in there, in the hope that as they grow, they will seed, and eventually the golf course will go back to the woods it once was. So, there's a bunch of those out. And if you could see now, there's probably hundreds of little flags in I don't quite know what all the flags are, but there's someone, there is a company that is actively from Quakertown, I want to say there's actively pursuing regenerating the plants in that area.

5. Steel City (Shaun) - Shaun was absent.

6. Polk Valley Park (Robert) - Robert was absent.

7. Easton Road Ballfield (Jerry)

Phil Spohn

Jerry, Easton Road Ballfield?

Jerry Holum

Things are happening there. The residents are up in arms there. I was out as recently as this afternoon, and I spoke to at least...

Phil Spohn

Can you speak into your microphone?

Jerry Holum

Yes, I was out there as recently as today, and the residents are quite up in arms about what's going to happen out there. They were approached. They were approached by the township to first to buy part of their, I may be stating this incorrectly, purchase their road. All right, they wanted to purchase the road that leads up to the ball field adjacent to the ball field, not to the ball field adjacent to the ball field. Of course, they did not want to sell it. They have privacy concerns, part of the privacy concerns, the township believes they'll be alleviated, alleviated with the planning of our provides along there. And people in council can probably chime in on this. They're going to play on ARB provide. He's, apparently, they can't plan them now in the winter, and they have to wait, until ground thaws, and they're going to be planning the ARB provide. He's, uh, uh, my personal feeling is it's not going to provide the needed comfort that they're going to need there for privacy. I mean, ARB five, these grow two to three feet a year, but, you know, probably the ones that they're going to plan are probably, I'd imagine, maybe eight feet, eight feet or 10 feet high, so they're still not going to have enough privacy, they're still up in arms about that. They're concerned about the lighting.

They have done a couple tests out there on the lighting, and the residents seem to feel that it's not going to be enough. There's going to be too much light shining into their houses.

Phil Spohn

There is an end. They cannot be lights cannot be on after is it 10 o'clock? Here? 10 o'clock, yes. And that facility. Yeah, it's a park, yeah, but what are the what are the rules there? They haven't been established.

Priscilla deLeon

The rules are dawn to dusk, but no, this is the only one that's lit.

Carol Schneider

This is the only one with lights and the rules there are no later than 10 o'clock.

Priscilla deLeon

Even the basketball courts, right?

Carol Schneider

Yes, the Basketball court has a timer for the lights, and it is not to exceed 10 o'clock.

Priscilla deLeon

Well, I'm upset over the lights, and I continue to be vocal about this, and I know they're looking into it, and they're trying to come up the trees, like Jerry said, it's just, it's just not going to cut it. And I feel bad for them. And I told Carol, I'm repeating this. I told Carol last week. I said, what's this the rules on, you know, like scheduling field time, you know, like out there. Because I said, like, what are the hours, and if they're going to go past dark, you know, I don't want them playing baseball there, because when, when it's when it's dark, the lights go off. I mean, the lights shouldn't be on anyway, so the game should be scheduled during the daytime. Do you know what I'm saying, like, like, the lights going to interfere with the people's houses, so they should not be turned on at all until they get fixed. So, give incentive to get fixed, but I will not support having games out there while the lights are shining in people's houses. And I asked to go to council, and I'm going to ask to put that on the agenda, okay? And it's not, I'm not against kids. I want them to play, but it should not be inconveniencing the residents, sorry.

Jerry Holum

Well, I know you can't comment on this as a council member, but I understand, and then at least the person I talked to today, I think at least one of them was approached about buying their property. I know you can't, its Executive Session stuff, but from what I read, it appears that there's going to be they're going to approach people that are adjacent to the ball field to buy their property, with open space, money, but that's just my supposition. But at least one person was thought they were approached about it already. The only other thing in the contracts where I think correct me, if I'm wrong, Carol the contracts with Heller town Little League for using the field were already put in place. So, contract, or the contract doesn't I thought I read something.

Carol Schneider

We don't have a receptionist now to send this right now.

Jerry Holum

Will you be sending a contract to Little League, as well as Diamondback?

Carol Schneider

They are under the same umbrella.

Jerry Holum

Did the Legion express an interest?

Carol Schneider

The Legion is separate. I am unaware if they have. This falls under the receptionist's job, which is currently vacant. I hope to get the paperwork out to all the groups by the end of the week.

8. Heller Homestead Park (Maia) - No discussion.

9. Saucon Rail Trail (Maia/Jerry)

Phil Spohn

Okay, Jerry, could we move to Saucon rail trail with Maia, well? Any, any, I know there's been some movement on that Maia. Do you have anything to say about the Saucon Rail Trail? No, I don't Okay, but there was movement of money that has been awarded.

Jerry Holum

Yeah, that's the D and L. That is the opener. Now, I am not quite sure what the status is, physically opening it, but the money is out there. It's just a case of signing some agreements with different people.

Phil Spohn

No, we are talking about the rail trail.

Priscilla deLeon

Yeah, the bathrooms on the trail head.

Phil Spohn

Whether they continue hooking them up to the Bethlehem Greenway, or whatever. It seems like I saw there was some movement on that.

Jerry Holum

Yeah, there has been a movement. It's just a case of crossing the T with contracts the other the other thing is, there was an open there was a dedication of the bridge down Preston Lane. Yeah, I don't know. I didn't get, I didn't get down there. It was a little too cold. I guess it was on Saturday, and it was pretty bad. So, they had. They have the Preston Lane Bridge open. That'll link the college so the college kids driving bikes won't have to come down the road to be able to get right on a rail trail. The other thing, the other thing that they're going to be doing is putting up the mileage markers along the trail. They finally got that to the point where they got the markers made. So, I guess it's just the case that they're going to be putting them out this spring.

Phil Spohn

Maia, do you have anything on the Heller Homestead Park, which we've talked about, or invasive plan inventory?

Maia Simon

No, I do not.

10. Invasive Plant Inventory (Maia) - No discussion.

9. Event Updates: None

10. New Business:

1. Memo - Recommendations for DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grant

Phil Spohn

New business. Now, I saw this is at the very end of the packet. I thought it was maybe funding for the barn project. I thought they were connected, but that was added and put in there for our own information. Carol, yes, that grants are available?

Carol Schneider

Correct. Cathy wanted to include.

Jerry Holum

What is the grant? I'm sorry, go ahead. What is the grant that's open and outstanding? Is that the one for Polk Valley Park? She says there's a grand outstanding is that the one that's expected to be finished is that for I thought the pickle ball courts would have been paid by now. There I don't they haven't been paved.

Carol Schneider

They are scheduled to be paved in spring.

Jerry Holum

Oh, okay, so that's probably the one that it is until they pave it. So, after that is complete, we have the ability to apply for grants, but not until final payment is made. So that's something we want to keep on the board, Phil for grant.

Phil Spohn

Yeah, I think that's, I mean, I was impressed with it. I don't know do, is there someone in? Do people from this team request grants, or is that something that the administration has someone....

Carol Schneider

If you have an idea of where you would like to see something done, that's definitely something that you would pass on to Cathy. We would need to know what you want to do and where you where you would want to do it.

Jerry Holum

In light of that Phil, and the presentation at Priscilla gave, why wouldn't the Saucon Valley Conservancy consider an application for a Grant?

Priscilla deLeon

Down the line, they are going to yes.

Jerry Holum

Oh, but at this at this point, they're not? I guess you'd have to do that within a certain amount of time, because the grants will be closing at a certain time, won't they?

Priscilla deLeon

So, when you're saying what specific grant are you talking about?

Jerry Holum

Well, any grant that's available.

Phil Spohn

In our packet there was, there was a letter. It's who was eligible?

Jerry Holum

Oh, they won. They're a nonprofit. Well, it says nonprofit, county, municipal, nonprofit, Land Trust, yeah,

Phil Spohn

But it's private, yeah, but I don't think it's County and it's not municipal.

Sandy Miller

They have a separate line item. Is it a 501-3C?

Priscilla deLeon

It's not on their list right now. This is on the list.

Jerry Holum

So, is it possible that they could have a grant, and we could township could have a grant too at the same time.

Phil Spohn

So, that's more FYI information. I would make it okay. We have a list, I think it's the very last page of the upcoming meetings.

Jerry Holum

Well, I have a question on the information that was provided still worth what is this year we have it's budgeted, and people from Council can probably straighten me out on this. They have budgeted Polk Valley Park Trail, \$100,000 there's some paving. Are they paving something?

Laura Ray

I think it's some paving.

Priscilla deLeon

Remember, it's in the budget?

Laura Ray

Yeah, I think there's some pave trail in Polk Valley Park, if I recall.

Phil Spohn

Where? Wait, where's that? It's in the pack.

Jerry Holum

Yes, as well as Southeastern Park. What's the \$100,000 at Southeastern Park? I mean, I maybe somebody else Parks & Rec knows this, wondering, what the heck, what the heck that's all about? What's in the budget for \$100,000 and we're not aware of it?

Phil Spohn

Polk Valley Park Trail?

Sandy Miller

And also Southeastern?

Phil Spohn

That's a good point. Jerry,

Sandy Miller

Is there a plan that you guys have that you use this to allocate it for budgetary purposes?

Laura Ray

I have to go back and look in the budget, because I don't recall anything specific.

Jerry Holum

I can't find it.

Priscilla deLeon

Cathy usually does the grants.

Margaret Segaline

Do I have to identify myself again please, Margaret Segaline, our Saucon Township, it may have to do with the fire department, just an idea, because maybe, for some reason, it wasn't identified. But isn't that where the fire department is? That needs to have funding for building now?

Priscilla deLeon

I think it would be a different place.

Phil Spohn

Laura, is that something you can find out for us? Put in an action item, so we'll have, two action items as far as I know, when I write a letter and two, we'll find out about those.

Laura Ray

I'll ask about these two park monies.

Phil Spohn

That's a good point, because that's nice to have.

Priscilla deLeon

And you have to have it prepared ahead of time. Grants are available. You look at a list and say that one

Phil Spohn

Okay, so that's a second action item we'll have tonight,

Jerry Holum

Not only that, but what are the other figures that are in there? How about 26?

Sandy Miller

I had that down for her to investigate.

Jerry Holum

Number 26 so we need some detail on that.

Sandy Miller

What's the plan, that's what I wrote down.

Jerry Holum

Maybe were not doing anything.

Sandy Miller

We'll find out. Thank you.

2. Approval of 2025 Meeting Dates

Phil Spohn

On the very last page is the future dates. FYI, just take a look at that. Next month we're back here, March 3, April, 7. And then we have those, the ones we do on site. There is no July meeting, and so if you put those into your calendars, that would be appreciated.

Carol Schneider

Unless you approve them. I know they were approved last....

Phil Spohn

Yeah, do the ad for the paper. Okay. Do you have a motion?

Sandy Miller

I move that we approve the Parks & Recreation dates.

Niloo Aflatooni

Second, yes. I second.

Phil Spohn

All in favor say, aye.

Parks & Recreation

Aye.

Phil Spohn

Okay. All oppose? Motion carries.

MOTION: Sandy motioned to approve the 2025 Parks & Recreation meeting dates for the Ad.

SECOND: Niloo, passed 5-0-2 (Robert & Shaun absent).

3. Final Resident Park Survey

Jerry Holum

The last thing on the agenda...

Jerry Holum

Going back Phil with Cathy's memo. She says we should, do we have anything to recommend projects for grants. Now, number one is being completed this year. But why wouldn't we say yes, we have interest in our projects. Don't we have a list projects? I have some ideas.

Sandy Miller

Isn't there also the invasive?

Jerry Holum

Well, it's not a I'm talking about.

Laura Ray

We don't have, like, a detailed plan yet, though, so it's hard too. You can't really get funding for something that doesn't have a clear definition or cost. We were going to do our inventory, first of that with volunteer labor.

Jerry Holum

But Phil, don't we have any other projects. We made a wish list.

Phil Spohn

Well, these are the two things I suggest we have in a packet for next meeting. One is, I haven't seen the questionnaire, and if we can get that from Kevin at the back of what was it hand out? It wasn't mean it wasn't handed out before the meeting. I really don't like to look at stuff that wasn't handed out to us before the meeting.

Laura Ray

I sent it as soon as I was asked for it.

Phil Spohn

Well, no, I mean, it might not. I mean the minutes say it was going to happen sometime in December.

Carol Schneider

Kevin was supposed to meet with me, and it didn't happen. Laura was able to send me the final copy of the survey last week and I was able to work on it today. I really needed somebody to direct me, as I wanted your

ideas incorporated in this, as the check boxes and everything. I did go ahead and I sent a copy of the survey to Laura and Phil at five o'clock today. I didn't expect you to see it right away, but if you wouldn't mind looking it over first, I would appreciate it.

Phil Spohn

I propose that we you this would be our third action item that you would look at this and be prepared next meeting to make suggestions and then we're execute how we're going to make sure we execute on getting this out to the public and getting some information back.

Carol Schneider

I'm at the stage now where I set the launch dates set. You can see how it works. I wanted to make sure it worked check boxes and answering yes or no and adding comments. So, there's only one question that I have a problem with, and I need guidance. Laura, if you can look at it, I'll send you a copy of it too, so that you can see how it is. We can set the dates for it. I think I recall what you said for two or three weeks? We can get the survey up and running before the next meeting I'm thinking, and that's up to you, unless you want to wait until next month?

Laura Ray

We wanted to coordinate it with newsletter, possibly, but I don't know what the date is going to be on the newsletter.

Carol Schneider

It's moving along now.

Laura Ray

Facebook post and Constant Contact, we were going to try to coordinate an effort where it went out in however many ways, we could get it out.

Carol Schneider

If you want to wait until the newsletter, that will give us more time, I mean, Stacy's working on that, and, you know, we're all working on that, but we can coordinate it so that it just takes time. I mean, the newsletter is, you know, right now it's in, in the stage of, you know, we're putting articles in and getting that done. And then it's, you know, two weeks at the printers for, you know, they have to do what they do, and then to get it out to residents. That's, you know, another week.

Phil Spohn

If you want, how often does that come out?

Carol Schneider

Well, this is the last one in print that we'll be doing, and we're going to advertise it on the newsletter, I think it's on the back, on a QR code you know that it is the last one in print. So, we're going to advertise that everywhere, but then it'll only be online.

Phil Spohn

And how often does, like, when's the last one that came out before that one?

Carol Schneider

I don't know, if it was spring.

Phil Spohn

So, its nothing set like four times a year, three times a year?

Carol Schneider

Two to three times a year.

Phil Spohn

Do we know when that last print one is specifically going out today? After? Will it be after our meeting in February?

Carol Schneider

And it should be before, then, not February but before March.

Phil Spohn

So, you'd want to include this survey.

Carol Schneider

It should be off to print by then.

Laura Ray

So let me, let me just say that, well, we're going to use a QR code in the newsletter.

Phil Spohn

Yes, there's one in there.

Niloo Aflatooni

So numbers three. How did you put number three in your in your question that has a number in this? You sent us this.

Carol Schneider

I sent you. I can give you a copy of what I just wanted printed.

Niloo Aflatooni

So, what do you recommend? Can we work on it as homework from now until next week and done with it? Or do we want to have an actual physical meeting then?

Phil Spohn

Well, if this is going to print before March, we should approve it. Now, is that what I'm hearing?

Carol Schneider

Yes, okay, number three is not the one. I had a problem with number three, actually...

Niloo Aflatooni

So, you have a number I think, because I did it myself. So, for me, I have to write 7,6, 2, but in your version, we don't need to do that.

Carol Schneider

No, in my version, there are arrow buttons that will go up and down.

Niloo Aflatooni

Okay, we can.

Carol Schneider

They will have to choose, and you have to physically click on those arrow buttons where you want number, and it's one through eight, okay? There are eight parks, not 7.

Niloo Aflatooni

Consider children under 12 or 18.

Phil Spohn

Good point.

Niloo Aflatooni

Because I have 16 and 13 and I don't know.

Carol Schneider

Okay, so you want to revise that?

Niloo Aflatooni

I just want to make sure it's clear if somebody asked us, I want to know what to say.

Laura Ray

If you can claim then on your taxes, their children, okay, under 18.

Carol Schneider

I can put that in there. I can add that 18. This is why I needed somebody to help me do this.

Phil Spohn

So, you're and you're saying this is a QR code that will take you to this survey newsletter.

Carol Schneider

Otherwise, there will be a link and a survey. When they post it for Facebook or send contact Facebook, it will be a link that will take you to the site, correct.

Sandy Miller

Am I removing that action stuff?

Carol Schneider

Yes, the one that I had a problem with,

Niloo Aflatooni

One before I forget number eight and nine, to me, they're the same. I mean, I don't know, I is number one suggestion, and then additional such a thought.

Phil Spohn

I mean, it's, we are talking about busy, you know, second which to number

Niloo Aflatooni

Eight and nine, they are pretty much the same.

Phil Spohn

Well, it's always nice to say whatever you want to say.

Niloo Aflatooni

What question?

Phil Spohn

Nine, I understand. I hear what you're saying. I mean, I would let them, let them there. People want to use them. If people want to use them, they use them. So, Carol, what? What was your issue that you need?

Carol Schneider

My issue was with number three. When people rate it, you have feel free to explain your ratings below. So, I couldn't create a comment section under that which I wanted to do. That's what you wanted to do, and I can't. So, I can just make it question number four and just bump them down and have a comment section referring to question number three. Why did you answer? You know? Explain your ratings? So, if that's

okay, I'll do that, and it'll be 10 questions instead of nine. That's fine. Okay, so then you want to change number nine? You want to change that? No, you're good with that. Yeah, okay, that was the only question I had.

Phil Spohn

Okay? And the thing is, we can tweak it as if we were not getting the information we want. Then we might need to tweak it down the road for a future survey.

Carol Schneider

You can always tweak it. Laura, if you could look at that and then give me your feedback on color and etc. Phil, I'll send it to you. I'll send it to you. I can send it to everybody here, you know.

Sandy Miller

But I think you also for number I'm not loud enough. Number Five should have a time frame, did you visit a park in the past year with children?

Carol Schneider

If everybody's an agreement.

Niloo Aflatooni

Yes.

Phil Spohn

Yeah, past year, right?

Sandy Miller

Yeah, I haven't gone and my kids are 30.

Carol Schneider

We know that you didn't go to Kingston Park.

Phil Spohn

It's an interesting little postage stamp right there.

Carol Schneider

I can revise that, and then Laura, I'll, I'll send you a revision. So, you don't necessarily have to open the one I sent you, but I'll send you, I'll send the revised one, and we could play with it and see make sure everything works.

Niloo Aflatooni

It's survey monkey, right?

Carol Schneider

Yes, Survey Monkey.

Phil Spohn

It's getting that time when you have to do homework, right? Oh, I remember those days. Any other, any other for the good of the whole any other comments or go ahead?

Sandy Miller

Do we want to reflect all on what Cathy sent? Does anybody? Anybody want to propose? If anybody has ideas they should submit to Cathy before the next meeting. Or you want, I just want to acknowledge Phil that you brought that up twice. Do you want?

Phil Spohn

Yes.

Jerry Holum

The grant moneys out there, right?

Sandy Miller

So that'll be another to do thing to submit to Carol?

Phil Spohn

Well we can bring it here first.

Jerry Holum

Why don't we do it now?

Phil Spohn

It's eight o'clock.

Jerry Holum

What does that mean?

Phil Spohn

It's too long.

Carol Schneider

I'm on that grant so you could..

Sandy Miller

I'll put down. Prepare to discuss.

Phil Spohn

Jerry, would you like to stay here till three in the morning?

I don't think discussing this will take over five minutes.

Phil Spohn

No, I know what I want to do at my place that I'd be glad to get that list. Okay, I will put that down on the list so everybody and if do you want to send that to me, we can send it out so that people know exactly what's expected. Great. Thank you very much. Going once, going twice, you're good, we're good. Everyone's good.

Carol Schneider

Okay, next meeting is motion to adjourn.

Phil Spohn

Second? Is there a second?

Priscilla deLeon

There's one question from the audience.

Phil Spohn

Please come to the microphone.

David Ross

No problem. My question was, for the ball field.

Carol Schneider

Please state your name.

David Ross

David Ross, I'm a nonresident. My question was, the lighting. Is there? Like anything, there's a blueprint. Is there a blueprint for the lighting system to see how far the range of the beams go out, and how to set them up like a standard and record ballfield? Because I've, I've been around in other football fields in high schools, and I kind of see the lights like right at the bleachers, and they have row homes right on the other side, and they're all dark. I mean them lights aren't going past the bleachers on both sides. There's housing on the other side of all sides of a football field that I've seen, and I've seen darkness, and I've seen pictures of the people that have lived next to this ball field on Easton Road, and it lights up do the whole house out the back. I'm surprised that they can't control that lighting, because I've seen some lighting where, even in your own basketball, like we mentioned, this basketball court, it's dark outside that court, but when they're playing ball, they're all lit up right there. If you look at it like you have your standard lighting that lights up your area to park, but right outside that shell there, it's pretty dark, so I don't see why they can't control that light to aim it.

Carol Schneider

Priscilla, has the checklist been completed? Did they sign off on the checklist. There's usually a final checklist.

Priscilla deLeon

Not that I'm aware of.

Carol Schneider

So, I would imagine that they would have to do that first.

Priscilla deLeon

I don't know what the status is of that.

Sandy Miller

The punch list.

Carol Schneider

Yes, the punch list.

David Ross

My other question, handicap. I mean, there's a hill. I mean, I'm sure there's railing, because it has to be a certain railing, a certain distance, diamond or whatever people have to walk down if they're elderly or disabled. That ever been. I noticed, I believe there's not a handrail there for the disabled. That's a hill. I can see somebody,

Carol Schneider

I believe that Parks and Rec. went over this, Jerry?

Jerry Holum

Yeah, we they're a ADA compliant. That is, it is ADA compliant.

Phil Spohn

It is okay.

Jerry Holum

I checked that specifically. I checked the engineering drawings. So, I checked everything else. I made exactly that recommendation on our punch list, yeah, that we should have a railing up there. Yeah, absolutely.

David Ross

I push somebody on a wheelchair up I can imagine coming down. How to hold somebody. Not to say you'd be holding on to the hand railing, but just an elderly person walking down that hill, I would like to see. I would have thought it would have been a recommendation for your going to have a lot of kids. Grandparents are going to be watching their grand kids. So, I'm surprised the township wouldn't put that on their list. Just not just go to the standard a little above.

Phil Spohn

But where? How do we make sure the lighting does not fall on deaf ears?

Priscilla deLeon

I keep talking about it. Carol, do I not talk about it?

David Ross

Well, you were not to interrupt. You had said you are scheduling already, all things happening, okay? Because if you are scheduling, they're thinking already that they're having a night game. So, I would just make sure before Council says...

Carol Schneider

We can't technically, open the field until everything ready.

David Ross

I believe so. Okay.

Carol Schneider

Right now, I mean, within the next week or so, I'll be getting the information out for them to get the contracts back to us, but it's not that they won't take the field until the field is open, and that doesn't happen until Mother Nature is ready, hopefully sooner rather than later, but everything I think on the checklist would have to be completed before that field gets open.

Phil Spohn

And who's controlling the checklist?

Laura Ray

Where is that? Hanover, I think.

Phil Spohn

But how do they get Are they aware of our concerns, and especially an idea that maybe there are other types of lighting that after that meeting in September?

Priscilla deLeon

Was it September? I think Hanover got involved and was working on it.

Jerry Holum

Yeah, Roger met with them out there, and they tried to do the adjustments. Roger, along with Hanover and contractor, met out there. They did some adjustments and fine tuning.

Carol Schneider

I would imagine that would happen here too adjustments and fine tuning.

Phil Spohn

So, do you feel that you can be in touch with Roger to make sure someone stay in on this issue?

Jerry Holum

Yeah, I can touch base with him if that's what you want me to.

Phil Spohn

Let's make sure that stays on the checklist that okay, because that's not fair to the residents who are living right there.

David Ross

Thank you.

Jerry Holum

I recommended to the residents that I talked to today that they write a letter Cathy and ask them to include it in the meeting, in the meeting, maybe something will happen. Maybe it won't, but I said it doesn't, it's not going to hurt you to go on record what you feel might happen out there as far as your privacy once they start playing and you see, hey, that is a problem. You know, they say, I told you so, but you know, that's all they can do. I said you can come to council meetings and speak up, but all of them said, I'm not a person that wants to get up before Council and be belittled.

Laura Ray

Me either.

Phil Spohn

Do we have a motion to end the meeting you did motion second, Niloo, seconds, all in favor, say aye.

Parks & Recreation

Aye.

Any Opposed? The list of the people.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Phil motioned to adjourn.

SECOND: Niloo, passed 5-0-2 (Robert & Shaun absent).

Next Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Town Hall.