

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
CAMP HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 10, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Bonnie Bentz

Roll Call

Alissa Packer

Carl Schultz

Leigh Twiford

Zach Williard

Ms. Twiford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All were in attendance except for Mr. Guerin and Ms. Vroman.

CONSIDERATION OF DCNR RIVERS CONSERVATION GRANT TO FUND SIEBERT PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

- Mr. Hess shared that the purpose of the meeting is to get input from the public on a grant application that is under consideration to be filed. The grant, if awarded, would be used to fund improvements to the trail at Siebert Park between the pool parking lot and the existing informal parking lot off of Creek Road. The Stormwater Authority is budgeted to do a Stream Restoration Project in that same corridor and is likely to disturb the trail, so this project would be to build the trail back better.
 - The trail would be 8-10 feet wide and paved the whole way, which allows for ADA accessibility and allows for both bike and pedestrian traffic throughout the entire length.
 - In addition to the realigning and accessibility of the trail, they would restripe and repave two ADA parking spaces at each end of the trail. A new crosswalk along the park driveway would be installed.
 - There is one section that would require an easement from a property owner. If that is unsuccessful, they can still do the trail, it will just be a thinner section at that point.
 - HRG received a lot of favorable feedback on the project from the initial meeting with DCNR.
- Lauren Zumbrun shared that this is the main funding program of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a means of helping municipalities fund all types of recreation and conservation projects. There are a number of reasons that they feel the project would be a good fit for the program, such as the partnerships with the Watershed Association, Greenways Group, etc. The grant is also focused on providing recreation for all and intertwining uses, so the tie in with the boat launch and stream restoration are favorable additions.
- Grant applications are due in mid-April. The funding of the stream restoration will cover the dollar match for the project. This project would also fund the other half of the Kayak Launch Project.
- Mr. Hess estimated the cost of the project to be \$225,000, which includes the \$30,000 match of the Fish and Boat Commission grant for the kayak launch. The grant can request up to \$250,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Williard stated that he appreciates HRG putting this together. He shared that he is slightly concerned that the changes will take away the wooded affect that the trail currently offers.
- Mr. Williard asked if they do all of the paving of the trail, if it will take away from the stormwater project that is being worked on. Mr. Hess answered that stormwater can count existing gravel as existing impervious, so they will only need to consider stormwater mitigation for what is new, such as the extra width of the trail. For that they could add a trench that runs parallel with the trail.
- Mr. Williard added that he is hopeful that the project is not going to turn into the Willow Park Stream Restoration. Mr. Hess stated that the riparian buffer is required with the stream restoration project, whether they do the trail or not. He stated that an important difference in this area and Willow Park is that Willow Park was essentially a mowed lawn, whereas this area at Siebert Park already has an existing tree canopy that does a lot of the work for them. There will be some planting but it will be less drastic.
- Mr. Williard asked if it will require public works to do more winter maintenance if the trail is paved. Mr. Hess stated that there is no winter maintenance there currently. He added that the stone dust material is a lower cost but it requires a little more general maintenance for public works. The drainage can be improved from what it is currently when they do the trail to keep water under it instead of washing over the top of it. It is a softer surface, so erosion and rutting from heavy traffic on wet days could cause more work for maintenance.

- Ms. Twiford asked if something more pervious and more nature-looking than pavement could be used. Mr. Hess answered that there are aggregate surfaces that would meet the accessible standards, such as compacted stone dust. The width and grade are the two things that would be important.
- Ms. Packer asked if there anything currently prohibiting bikes down the trail. Ms. Logar answered that people do bike the trail but that it is not good for biking at the moment.
- Ms. Bentz asked if there is any impact to where the trail starts by the existing pump station with regards to improvements to the pump station. Mr. Hess answered that since that conversation, they have realigned the trail around that area.
- Diana Bermingham shared that she is a biker and is with the Conodoguinet Greenway. She stated that the trail is something they would like to be a part of the Conodoguinet Greenway. It does need some work and is not good for a road bike. She prefers the crushed stone option.
- Ms. Packer asked about the width of the riparian buffer, which Mr. Hess answered that it needs to be 70' (ideally 35' each side). The path would go through it.
- Ms. Bentz asked if the path can be an 8' wide trail. Mr. Hess stated that they discussed 8-10', so he would have to look into it a little bit more to see if that would be acceptable.
- Ms. Packer asked how much it would cost to just redo the trail with no improvement. Mr. Hess answered that they have an allowance built into the stream restoration project of about \$80,000 -100,000 to redo the trail without improving it.
- Mr. Schultz asked if the material for the trail must be decided now. Mr. Hess answered that is does since it will affect the cost.
- Ms. Bentz asked if the fee can be included in the grant reimbursement. Mr. Hess stated that the application fee cannot be reimbursed, but HRG engineering costs during the project could be included in the grant reimbursement.
- Ms. Packer asked about the cost of other pervious pavements that look more natural than the crushed stone, which Mr. Hess stated would most likely push them out of the \$250,000 grant cap.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Twiford shared that the grant application will be voted on at the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.