

Vision Committee Meeting Minutes

8/6/15

6:30pm

Members Present: Jerry Aroneo, Peter O'Neill, Lisa Scanlon, Neil Henry, Cornel Schuler

Consultants Ben Spinelli and Frank Pinto joined our meeting. Ben and Frank started their consulting business approximately one year ago. Frank is an attorney and former mayor of Chester and has a lot of experience with the DEP. Frank is the former Morris County Planner.

Per Ben and Frank, they feel they can help us assess the Kurz property; see what is usable; what can potentially be usable. They can help us with PR and get the public involved in the process. They can help us with the public visioning process; financing of the development of the property; and they have a lot of experience with grant writing. They can help us in the development process; help us to get contractors; and help us with regulations and working with the DEP. Per Ben, "we're probably only going to get one shot at this."

We talked about our discussions with a land owner who has the property adjacent to this and any possibilities of reconfiguring our property and that which is adjacent. Because our property is on our ROSI—this means we will have to get approval from the State House Commission to enter into any transaction, and they only meet twice per year.

Ben and Frank suggested we go see some other parks:

Morris County Central Park in Mount Freedom which has 4 lit soccer fields all in a row.

Randolph pathway system which utilized a "T" grant. Their architect was Carol Hubert.

We discussed the possibility of digging and creating a lake on the Kurz property in a wetlands area. Ben indicated we need to find out why the state changed the classification of the wetland area. See if it is termed/classified as extraordinary wetlands—if so—no digging.

Ben's firm can do as little as we want him to do or as much as we want him to. Ben will contact Paul Ferriero to get a large scale LOI map copy, a township map showing ROSI properties, and the history on the Kurz property.

Peter O'Neill made a motion, Jerry Aroneo seconded, to move forward and enter into a contract with Ben and Frank to get project planning phase started. Ben and Frank will develop a proposal for us and so that it can be presented for approval at the 8/12/15 TC meeting. All in favor.

Ben Spinelli and Frank Pinto left the meeting.

Peter O'Neill made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 23, 2015. Jerry Aroneo seconded. All in favor.

Regarding Agenda Item #4, per Neil, all dates are still the same.

Regarding Agenda Item #5—meeting went well; some concerns about parking. Paul Ferriero will draw up map of proposal.

Regarding Agenda Item #6—The county reviewed our ingress/egress possibilities with us for an entrance. The county will not allow angled parking or an entrance off of Morristown Rd—only a footpath.

Regarding Agenda Item #9—We discussed the possible referendum and whether or not we can launch a PR campaign in time for a vote in Nov. of 2015. Consensus is we would rather see the timing of the referendum be deferred.

Regarding Agenda Item #8—the Vision Committee would like to get some input from Spinelli and Pinto on architects they would recommend for this project.

Regarding Agenda Item #10—Jerry Aroneo has spoken to Brendan Rae regarding possibilities for private fundraising efforts. Ideas such as selling bricks, park benches, etc. were topically discussed. The non-profit organization has been set up and has 501c3 status.

Regarding Agenda Item #11—no further discussions on this item at the moment.

Next meeting: 9/10/15 at 6:30pm.

Adjourn: 8:50pm