

Environment and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 1, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Councilpersons Joe Frederick, Wendy Margolis, Tim Brennan, Larry Browne, and Jennifer Jarret, as well as Borough Manager John Davis, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, and Mayor Ron Strouse.

The **Minutes** of March 4, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted. (Frederick/Brennan)

Tara Pellegrino, resident of 133 West Ashland Street attended the meeting to discuss the tree in front of her home. This tree and its roots are causing serious sewer issues for the homeowner, with sewage backing up into the basement and the inability to use toilets. This is a very costly job, which the sewer line insurance company will repair, but not while the tree is there causing the problem. This project will be a labor-intensive job involving the removal of the tree and stump as well as excavating and curb and sidewalk repair. John requested the contact information at the insurance company to verify that their replacement of the sewer lateral will be sufficient and will be successful with the removal of the tree. There are many possible factors and Jennifer reminded the homeowner that a satisfactory outcome for her is paramount to the Borough. John will discuss it further with Phil Ehlinger, Public Works Director, Doug from Kniese Plumbing, as well as Homeserv, which is the sewer line insurance company, to determine the best course of action. It would be more cost effective and quicker to reroute the sewer line and the tree could possibly be saved but that will need to be worked out with Homeserv. This discussion will continue, as quickly as possible, to find a solution for the homeowner.

John provided an update on the **2021 Arts and Crafts and Summer Games Programs**. Currently, there is not an Arts and Crafts Director as the longtime director retired. The search for a new director, along with COVID restrictions, makes cancelling the program for this summer the best solution. All in attendance agreed.

John gave a **Broad Street Park Update**. The bid package for the sidewalks, concrete work, etc. has been listed, with bids due on April 15. Work is moving along well.

New/Old Business: Wendy and Mayor Strouse spoke with Penn Environment regarding the **single-use plastics** preemption lawsuit being brought by Philadelphia as well as other municipalities, being brought against the State. Wendy would like to bring in Borough Counsel to determine how best to involve the Borough. John noted there would be a cost involved, approximately \$3000-\$5000; Wendy feels it best to find an attorney willing to work on this on a pro bono basis. Solebury Township is also interested in being involved, and they use the same attorney's office as the Borough. Tim feels it would be best to use the Borough solicitor. John will talk to the Borough Solicitor on the next steps, after Mayor Strouse supplies him with more details.

John updated the Committee on the new **Tile Works** contract. If the Committee would like, a draft letter or resolution would be passed on but that needs to be issued rather soon, and before the County's vote in a few days. All members in attendance agreed to support Mayor Strouse's letter in support of the Doylestown Historical Society; John will issue the statement of the Committee's support.

Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.