

SHICKSHINNY BOROUGH  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 12, 2018  
MINUTES

A Special Meeting for discussion on camping initiatives in Shickshinny Borough was held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, in the Council room of the Shickshinny Municipal Building. President Rosalie Whitebread called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Per roll call, the following members of Council were present: Candice Kruczek, Helen Ruffenach, and Rosalie Whitebread. Absent: Jeff Norcross and Jim Wido

Others in attendance: Bobbi Titus, John Ackerman, Kathy Llewellyn, Larry Frace, Chris Cawley, Paul Colarossi, Jeff Noss, Jule Moore, Carol Crane, Brian Swingle, Brian Phillips.

**Old or Unfinished Business**

**Discussion of Camping Initiatives in Shickshinny Borough**

John Ackerman began the discussion by updating all on the present status of Five Mountain Camping, initiated during the GTRP Grant application process. The GTRP grant application was not submitted. John stated he took the initial proposed layout and revised it to remove the camping area from the flood plain and, thus, reduce costs. He included fire pits (rock and steel with grills and ember screens) and concrete picnic tables. He included the excavating/leveling the site and a gravel driveway. He stated that a survey and subdivision of the three parcels included in the property, including the pump station, would be needed in order to lease the property to Shickshinny Forward. He also noted that two of the parcels extend beyond the creek.

The question was raised on whether or not we want to keep the property to one side of the creek. Helen Ruffenach asked whether subdivision would still be needed if the camping was all kept to one side of the creek. John Ackerman responded yes that subdivision and then consolidation was needed in order to lease the property. Brian Swingle noted that there is no interest in the property across the creek.

Chris Cawley explained that the Solicitor needs a legal description of the land to include in the lease and any possible grants. For any grants, a legal description of the land and a long-term lease of 25 years + 5 year renewals or a 99 year lease would be required.

President Whitebread asked whether subdivision would still be necessary if Shickshinny Forward leased the property from the Borough without grant involvement. Brian Phillips confirmed that the subdivision would still be required.

There was discussion on camping in the area by various groups, presently allowed.

A map of Borough-owned property was reviewed by those present.

Chris Cawley explained that most grants would require a dollar match (typically 15%), which would need to come from Shickshinny Forward. John Ackerman suggested moving forward with a plan using a grant to do the infrastructure. Brian Phillips stated that the project choices would need to be affordable, with the focus being to make this project legal and permanent.

Larry Frace provided information on DEP, Zoning, UCC, and FEMA requirements.

Helen Ruffenach stated she likes the idea, but would like to keep it to primitive camping.

Chris Cawley suggested doing the project in phases, with Phase I being the infrastructure.

Brian Phillips suggested use of grants for the subdivision costs and restrooms. He added that fundraisers and volunteers may be able to handle the rest.

There was discussion on the use of job johnnies instead of a permanent restroom. Larry Frace stated the FEMA/SFHA restrictions on the use of job johnnies.

Paul Colarossi noted that most grants have a duration of three years for completion of the project with possible extensions for "good cause".

John Ackerman estimated the cost for the infrastructure (leveling/gravel driveway) is approx. \$126,000, and \$76,000 for the ADA-compliant restroom and utilities. He noted that the public bids could come in higher or lower and recommended late winter/early spring to get the best bid amounts.

Brian Phillips stated that he has approximately 40 people that would help with the project and he would like to carve out items from the grant application and then use the grant for what his group cannot do. Brian Phillips indicated that he will meet with John Ackerman to delineate the separation of items to be handled directly by Shickshinny Forward and possible grants.

Chris Cawley did note that more than one grant could be used for the project, but an LSA grant must be awarded to a municipality, not a 503(c) entity. Chris further noted that project support from Senator Baker and State Representative Toohil would be of great benefit.

Brian Swingle and Brian Phillips agreed to get the plans and cost estimates from John Ackerman. They will work on the project and then present the plan to Council in the near future.

President Whitebread asked whether or not camping would be allowed in the Borough. It was noted that camping in the park, as it has been for the last four years, should continue. The annual Pennsylvania Kayak Association event is scheduled for July 6 through 8, 2018.

### **Resident Comments**

Rosalie Whitebread noted that the Twin Cities Community Organization (TCCO) is hosting a kid's Movie Night on June 30, 2018, in Municipal Park. This is a free event and beverages/snacks will be provided.

Jule Moore stated that there is no rain date associated with the Movie Night and that children must be accompanied by an adult.

Jule Moore also noted that TCCO is hosting a community picnic at Oak Street Park on July 14, 2018 from Noon – 4:00 PM. More information is forthcoming.

Motion by Candice Kruczek/seconded by Helen Ruffenach to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta J. Titus, Secretary  
Borough of Shickshinny