

**NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
SUMMIT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING of August 14, 2018**

A public meeting of the Summit School Committee of Nether Providence Township, duly advertised and posted in accordance with law, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Township Municipal Building, 214 Sykes Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ward 1 – Bob Kelly
Ward 2 – Dana Pickup
Ward 3 – Caity Kennedy
Ward 4 – Justin Henzel
Ward 6 – Patricia Robinson Linder
Ward 7 – Marty Malloy
Planning Committee – Robert Linn
Parks Committee – Steve Henry
Commissioner McKenzie-Fiumara (4th Ward)

EXCUSED:

Ward 5 – Jessica Mudrick
Commissioner Garson (2nd Ward)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 10, 2018 were approved with no revisions.

PUBLIC

Al Hurd, wanted to add to his comments from last meeting and suggested that the theater and dressing rooms he thinks are needed also need a caterer's kitchen. Confirmed that he is speaking as a member of the township and not from Stage One because he is retiring soon.

Gary Silver, parks commission chairman, brief history that the parks commission was heavily involved in acquiring the Summit School property. He says that the parks commission wants the township to knock the building down and build a new one. He discussed Furness Park which was a mess and once they started to do work they received a \$250K matching grant. Gary suggested a smaller footprint than is there currently because what is there is a large footprint because of the odd shape. After discussion he asked that one of our suggestions to the Board be demo and building a structure with a smaller footprint.

Amy, their concern with living next door is lights and noise with playing fields at night and she asked the committee to take this into account.

Tim Golden, real estate appraiser, here as a resident to listen and observe. He is similarly concerned with lights. He does not think that an outdoor basketball court will be heavily used because indoor courts are preferable. He is in favor of a splash park for children.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Dana Pickup –

Suggested that no matter what we do we should have a playground. She put together a list of options with pricing.

- New structure at WES from the PTO - they used GameTime which can do anything playground related. Just the climbing wall at WES was \$15K.
- Holy Trinity Church playground- \$19K also from GameTime and installed by an outside organization, this is just small items
- A smaller climbing structure that would just be a supporting type function beside fields is about \$50K.
- Aston and Concord - Gametime in the range of \$200-\$350K and this is likely the range that we are looking at for a decent sized playground.

Bob Kelly –

- Design 1 - presented design for the property that does not include a building, it is all fields. A 60/90 baseball field, two basketball courts, and an upper field that could be a small baseball field or a soccer field like it is currently being used. A playground and a snack bar are also included. There is parking for only 40 cars. Per Bob Linn the concerns may be that there is not enough parking if everything is being used at once. There are studies done that can tell you how much parking you need for each type of activity so we could consult those
- Design 2 - includes all fields in the form of 60/90 baseball fields, three basketball courts, and an upper field that could be a small baseball field or a soccer field like it is currently being used. There is parking for 80 cars but no playground or snack bar.
- There is no good 60/90 field in the township at this point. NPE field has drainage issues and the high school field. This field serves kids 13 and over. Within the township, Nether baseball, there are 8-10 teams at the 13-15 age group, and then an additional legion (travel) team for each of those years and a fourth for the 16 and over age group. Probably 100-150 kids that need this large of a field.
- Right now there is no lighting in any of the plans. Lighting other than safety lighting was scrapped in general in all plans per last meeting.
- Dana suggested that no matter what the field set up is that we should have a walking path around the edge.
- Dana has suggested a third version with an indoor basketball court and scaling back the rest of what is in the plan.

Steve Henry –

- Archbishop Carroll has coordinated with Cabrini to get a great baseball field. Cabrini used their field space for dorms and then spent their money on the field at Carroll.
- Noted that when we discuss the plans that serve the greatest number of people, everything

there is better than what is there, every design is specific to different categories of people. Voiced the belief that an indoor community center that has multiple uses and flexibility will serve the greatest number of people.

- The drawings that he put together several months ago was discussed. Reiterated that this space works very well at Northern Penn where he works.
- Bob Linn committed to putting together scaled drawings taking the topography into account and will have that ready for the next meeting. Bob will include other options along with the building such as parking, a playground, field, etc.

Caity Kennedy –

- One option is to take the building down to a slab and that option may lend itself to basketball courts there. Justin notes that it wouldn't make sense to leave it there for a future building, you would need to build on it very quickly for it to be useful. Bob Linn noted that there are trenches around the building everywhere and you cant leave them there if you are going to use it as an outdoor slab. Everyone agreed that leaving the slab isn't likely useful.

Justin Henzel-

- Provided two demo quotes, one to completely take the building and slab down and one to leave a shell there.
- “JH” column was through his associate who is a demolition contractor, and “RS” was pulled from a national database using Philadelphia union rates.

Patricia Robinson Linder-

- Voiced support for open space and is not in favor of another structure larger than a pavilion or snack bar.
- A list was provided of organizations that have provided suggestions that would help shape the space into a bird sanctuary.
- Green Space Alliance and National Wildlife Federation had funds that we could apply for that would help shape the space into a bird sanctuary or similar open space.
- Boy Scouts of America are also looking for Eagle Scout projects as are the Girl Scouts looking for projects for girls to attain gold status.
- Opinion is that something very natural and not specific in use would be positive for the township. The space should include a walking area through the wetlands and around the space in general and turn the entire property into a bird sanctuary.

Discussions regarding options that are not viable in the committee's opinion-

- The committee agreed that the existing building has so many issues that leaving it as a warm, dark shell for other groups to retrofit inside is likely not a viable issue. Bob Linn and Justin Henzel confirmed that the building is in such shape that renovating is likely no longer financially viable. Further the size of the basketball court is not sufficient and there is not

enough space behind the stage.

- The question was posed whether knocking the building down and rebuilding is an actual option for the township, in other words, if the option to renovate the existing building is off the table is there actually a possibility that a building gets built. Kait McKenzie-Fiumara confirmed that it is a viable option but there needs to be consideration for where the funds come from in the form of grants, and if the township borrows, this still needs to be paid back at some point and needs to be considered carefully. Bob Kelley believes that the taxpayers will be willing to pay higher taxes if we build something that people will appreciate.
- The recommendation of the committee is that the lease option be taken off the table. The committee does not think that taking the building out of control of the township would be a good idea. Bob Kelley is worried that this could cause problems with the school district and the restrictions on sale.

Discussions regarding funds-

- There were discussions about private funds, such as family donations that could be raised to help offset the cost of a community center.

Conclusion-

There are two options left that we will recommend to the township:

- Open space, with variations
- Community center

For next week-

- Marty handed out a rough draft of the report that will go to the commissioners and discussed some areas that still need to be filled in.

ADJOURNMENT

As advertised, the Committee will reconvene in 2 weeks, on August 28. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.