

**NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
SUMMIT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING of April 10, 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, April 10, 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 5 – Jessica Mudrick
Ward 7 – Marty Molloy (Chair)
Planning Committee – Robert Linn
Parks Committee – Steve Henry
Assistant Township Manager – Dave Grady
Commissioner McKenzie-Fiumara (4th Ward)
Commissioner Garson (Vice Chair, 2nd Ward)

NOT PRESENT: Ward 6 – Patricia Robinson Linder (Excused)

PUBLIC

2 people in attendance
Al Hurd, Stage One
Joe McCollough, Eastern PA Robotics Alliance

WELCOME & REVIEW OF AGENDA

Agenda reviewed and approved as presented.

Reminder provided to the committee of the importance of reserving committee business for the meetings. Matt provided some guidance to the committee that all discussions involving a quorum must be at an open/advertised meeting and not conducted via email per the Sunshine Act. In other words, if there is a quorum of Committee members who want to deliberate about Summit, it must be during one of our advertised meetings. Deliberation is defined as the discussion of agency business held for the purpose of making a decision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 13, 2018 meeting

Motion to approve updated minutes – Matt Garcon
Second – Dana Pickup
Passed Unanimously.

NOTED: Two large posters were provided as a point of reference for the committee and public to help facilitate the discussion. Three handouts were provided to the committee:

Handout #1 – Exact numbers of square footage provided for the building.

Handout # 2 – Sale document that provides a great deal of information about the site, and the surrounding community and demographics.

Handout #3 – Plan for use of full 10 acres. It was said that this is not a realistic view for it suggests a massive building that uses up parts of the acreage that is protected but is given to the committee as a way of demonstrating the full breadth of possibilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public was invited to introduce themselves and make any comments they wished at this time. The two individuals present introduced themselves to the committee and chose to make no statements at this time.

DISCUSSION # 1 – VISION DOCUMENT

A copy of the committee vision document was circulated to the committee. The mission and vision mirrors the language on the Township webpage and goes on to summarize the full range of options discussed by the group last meeting both from a usage and

structural standpoint. In addition, the document suggests a possible process for the committee to go through as it begins to adopt ideas to research and pursue as viable.

It was recommended that the mission statement be edited to “To deliver multiple layered recommendations to Nether Providence Township Commissioners by the end of the 2018 on how to proceed with the Summit School building and adjoining property.”

The goal of agreeing to 3-4 viable options for the committee to consider was agreed to as a realistic goal. The discussion continued about the roles of Mr. Linn and Mr. Henzel who will be able to use their expertise to provide credible estimates on the multiple variables that any option would present. For example, if there is an idea about what would be needed in a comprehensive renovation, they would help provide the estimates for each of the variables that the working group of the committee identifies. Mr. Linn went on to articulate that the variables to consider go beyond material into things like prevailing wage and township law that requires separate bids for each element of construction. It was agreed that most of the items that will need to be provided for a viable option can be handled internally with the expertise in the room.

Several broad stroke ideas were then discussed including:

- Demolishing the building a planning out open space
- Leasing the land to a private organization to take over the management and responsibility of renovating the building
- Renovation of existing structure
- Demolish and building new construction

Within each idea, there was further discussion about the possibilities within each. It was discussed that anything done to the existing structure is just adding ‘band aids to band aids.’ There was discussion about the need to see the space and setting a tour time for the committee to walk through and around together. The group then turned to demolition and cost-- the overall cost of demo and new building could be in the \$200 or more square foot range. The idea was presented that you could demo just the pods and have lots of options that would be an open canvas to do what you want including a covered pavilion or an amphitheater or something.

DISCUSSION #2 – DAVE GRADY FINANCIAL OPTIONS

Mr. Dave Grady provided a handout with several different types of grants and walked the committee through the amounts potentially available and for what specific purposes. In addition, he provided background information on grants that the Township has received, for what purpose and how matches, if needed could be included.

There was discussion about getting multiple grants over several years if the idea was well planned and sequenced into phases. It was agreed that this would allow some flexibility in thinking about bigger ideas for the space.

Mr. Grady specifically noted that this is not an exhaustive list; that grants usually come out annually; and most importantly do not let the funding dictate the ideas. He encouraged the committee to come up with the ideas and then we’ll research what grants are available, what grants can be sequenced or paired together and that there are new grants that emerge.

A question was asked about the history and possibility of pursuing private grant funding. Two private funders to look into included the Delaware County Community Foundation and The Kari and Dick Clark Foundation. Another question concerned selling buildable lots that could offer funding for other aspects of a project. This did not seem viable given the size of the acreage existing is limited.

DISCUSSION # 3 – COMMITTEE PREFERENCES

This was a fairly quick discussion of confirming email as the best form of communication for the group. It is. Would a group email/gmail be a good idea? It was decided yes. Would some collaborative Google docs and perhaps a Google drive be an effective tool for the committee. It was decided yes.

There was a brief discussion of whether an RFP could be written by Mr. Molloy that would allow for community input in a controlled manner. This discussion has been tabled for now as some of the group felt it would be unmanageable and lacking in equity. This is tabled for future consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Commissioners will ask Township staff to reach out to some of the surrounding communities to find out what they did in their process and funding for some of the community centers that we admire – Ridley, Aston, Swarthmore among others.

Group Tour – Matt will reach out to township staff to see about a tour for the group before the next meeting. Update: Committee will tour during the next meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

