

Green Team Meeting

March 18, 2021

5:00 P.M.

The meeting took place over Zoom.

Attendees: Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Connors, Janie Deemer, Colleen Johnson, Mark McCurdy, Kathy Pienkowski; and Penny Steggles

Topics of Discussion

- Beautification Award Program

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors reported that he and Mr. Burns had met earlier that day to develop the structure of the Program. He then discussed a brief history noting that after several meetings during 2020, the Green Team recommended the Board of Supervisors authorize a beautification recognition and award program for various property designations within the Township. He cited the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the recommendation at their November 24, 2020 Meeting.
- He then highlighted the three categories of properties that could be nominated:
 - Residential;
 - Business; and
 - Agricultural

A brief discussion ensued regarding separating businesses into industrial and retail classifications. After the discussion the Green Team decided to keep one overall category for businesses.

- He continued by discussing the methods of advertising the Program outlining the following mediums:
 - Press Release – (Observer-Reporter, WJPA, etc.);
 - Township Website and Facebook pages;
 - Printed Newsletter and Email “blast”;
 - Flyers in Township Park Information Boxes; and
 - Providing promotional information to Township Businesses (i.e. within home improvement and gardening sections as well as common meeting spaces).

Ms. Steggles highlighted that she could promote the Program during the Primary Election on May 18th. Mr. Burns stated announcements should be made during the Board of Supervisor’s and other Public Meetings. Ms. Pienkowski stated Citizen’s Library is open to the Public and could promote the Program as well. The members agreed that in addition to the aforementioned methods of promotion, word of mouth would be the most effective way to promote the Program.

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors then discussed the Application process illustrating a draft Application. After some discussion Mr. Burns stated the Program should be referred to as the South Strabane Beautification Program. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted Application deadline would be set for early July,

2021 and that applications could be submitted via email/dropped off in person at Municipal Building. Mr. Ursic recommended having a separate section of the website devoted to the Program.

- A discussion ensued regarding the perspective judges for the Program. Mr. Burns stated that two possible paths included using the Martha Washington Garden Club or the Green Team. Ms. Steggles voiced her support for having an outside group judge the properties. She noted that the Martha Washington Garden Club would know what to look for when judging a property. Mr. Ursic voiced his support for the Green Team judging for the Program. Ms. Steggles stated that she would invite a few members of the Martha Washington Garden Club to the April Green Team meeting.
- The Green Team then discussed the parameters of the program including whether gardens and rear yards should be included in the nomination process. Ms. Steggles inquired if properties maintained by a contractor should be allowed for nomination. Mr. Ursic stated that those who use their financial resources to procure a contractor should not be punished. Mr. McCurdy stated that property owner's who invest substantial resources into their property ultimately raise the value of neighboring properties. Mr. Burns stated the application should include a section for those who have a contractor/landscaper and the honesty system would be used.
- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors discussed potential awards/recognitions for the program including the following:
 - Certificate & Frame;
 - Yard Flag;
 - Gift Basket (donations from local businesses); and
 - Tree

Ms. Deemer expressed her concerns with the cost of awards. Mr. Burns noted the cost would depend on the scope of the awards. He discussed the history of the Washington County Beautification Program which he helped launch in the late 1990's. He noted many of the awards were funded through sponsorships. Mr. Burns directed Staff to research the costs and types of awards further. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted that when the finalists are selected up-to-date photos should be taken by the judges to ensure an equal playing field. The members of the Green Team agreed. Mr. Burns concluded by outlining the parameters of a recognition event which would take place during the August or September Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting. He noted the finalists would be recognized and provided with their award.

- **Updates**

○ Eagle Scout Project

Assistant to the Township Manager Connors reported that Aiden McCoy had received approval for his project from the Board of Supervisors during their February 23rd Regular Meeting. He highlighted Aiden had raised over \$500 in funds and the Township would be covering the remaining costs (approx. \$300). He provided an illustration of the welcome sign. He stated he would keep the Green Team up-to-date concerning the installation of the sign and beautification of the site.

- Community Park Bat Box

Assistant to the Township Manager Conners reported that he had met with Mr. Daniel Bitz of CNX and Public Works Director Grego to determine the final location for the bat box discussed during the February Green Team Meeting. He provided an aerial illustration outlining the location. He reported the bat box would be installed within a month's time.

- Range Resources Munce Well Reforestation Update

Assistant to the Township Manager Conners reported that after a year's delay Range Resources would be moving forward with their reforestation project on the Munce Well Pad. He provided a brief recap of the program noting that they received a zoning variance for the installation of an 8-foot-high woven wire deer fence encompassing approx. 27 acres of the property. He highlighted the fence would be installed during the week of March 15th.

- **Litter Pickup**

- Ms. Deemer voiced her support for more litter pickup dates. She highlighted that Ms. Fern Siebert's Organization, Clean Up Our County, has been cleaning up areas in and around the Township including the Park and Ride along E. Beau Street. She noted Trinity High School students could clean up litter for community service. Mr. McCurdy discussed the Adopt a Highway Program. Mr. Burns asked Staff to include litter pickup on the April Agenda.

Adjournment: 6:10 p.m.