

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**October 15, 2024**

President Kline called the workshop of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim – leaves at 9:19 p.m., Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person – leaves at 9:31 p.m. and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes, Dustin Remp – Mayor

**Park Master Site Plan**

Bryan Smith from Barry Isett & Associates provides an overall park review, which covers the ballfields, playground, skate park, pool and parking areas. He presents the draft plan which was developed by working with the Parks & Recreation Committee and speaking with community members. Any comments from tonight's meeting will be considered into the final plan.

Key items discussed:

1. Stormwater management will be a large component of the project. Inlets would be installed at 9<sup>th</sup> St. to capture flow, with pipes and stormwater management being run through the center core of the park, ending at a large drainage swale that would be along the back side of Park St. The swale would filter out impurities and then deposit into the system on Main St.
2. Completing ADA accessible walking loops around and through the park facilities to create better circulation within the park.
3. A dog park would be located east of the pool and would include two fences in areas; one for small dogs and one for large dogs.
4. A combination tennis & pickleball court would be adjacent to the dog parks. A loop road around the pool would provide off street parking and access to the court.
5. A roundabout by the pool entrance would allow for easy drop-off. There would be paved aisles and a parking area with paved asphalt. The parking areas would be porous asphalt to allow for stormwater infiltration. There would be a paved parking connection between the pool parking lot and the nearby parking area, to allow for better traffic flow and access to the skate park and pump track.
6. A new pavilion would be constructed adjacent to this area to provide shade to skate park spectators.
7. The main parking lot would have singular access from Park St., continuing behind the Little League Field and looping by the skate park for easy drop-off. Approximately 130 parking spaces would be created around this area.
8. A drainage swale would be located between the ball field and the parking loop by the skate park.
9. New playground equipment, keeping the spiral slide, would be moved closer to Park St. and have 2 fenced in areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12, as well as an open tween area.
10. A Gaga octagon would be installed by the tween area.
11. A small plaza entry area and sign would be created on the Park St. side of the playground equipment.
12. A loop path system would connect the play areas to the concession stand and the stage.
13. An outdoor dining area would be located by the concession building.
14. A new pavilion would be added by the playground to supplement the summer park program.
15. Updated areas for basketball, cornhole and bocce would be constructed.
16. The two sheds by the ball field would be consolidated into one structure.

17. Increase lighting in the park to support evening events.
18. Move the veteran's memorial to a more prominent location along 8<sup>th</sup> St.
19. Add a new score board and upgrades at the Babe Ruth field.

### **Public Comments on the Plan**

Shannon Cunningham (337 Perry Rd.): Asks what type of padding will be used at the playground, with B. Smith noting that the woodchips would be replaced with a rubberized pour in place safety surface.

Mike Grim (Council): Asks about the Gaga pit, with B. Smith reporting that the 8' x 8' octagonal structure is used to play an activity similar to dodge ball. B. Smith also confirms with Mr. Grim that the playground equipment would be moved closer to Park St., with the area for ages 2-5 and 5-12 being in a fence enclosed area.

Brian Moyer (301 Reber St.): Would like to see a pickleball court, as the sport is growing in popularity. He has visited several pickleball areas, some with 2-4 courts, and feels this would be a good addition to the park. He discusses the TeamReach app, where pickleball courts can be reserved for use by players. Mr. Moyer asks if there is any funding available for the project, with B. Smith noting of a DCNR 50/50 matching grant, as well as possibilities through the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Dana Smith (Council): Asks if there will be any privacy screening for the residents that have property located by the roadway connecting the pool parking lot to the skate park drive loop. B. Smith replies that the properties along the 900 block of Park St. would be separated from the park by a 15'-20' wide drainage channel with trees and shrubs. Additional buffer plants could be added by the homes located near the pool parking lot connection to the skate park loop. Mr. Smith notes of the speeding currently in this area, with B. Smith replying that speed humps could be added to the paved road in an effort to reduce speeding.

Brad Valentino (1187 Main St.): Asks for a timeline on the project, with B. Smith stating the project would have a staggered construction approach. As the project will be based on grant funding, a list of possible grants will be applied for to offset each phase of the project. Mr. Valentino asks if the ballfield fence lines would be removed. B. Smith notes that the fences would not be removed, but that there would be an overlay for soccer on each ballfield. They are recommending replacing the backstop on the larger field. The Lion's Club and Baseball Association's sheds will be combined into one structure.

Mr. Valentino asks if a pavilion which includes a concession/kitchen area and storage space could be considered, similar to what is at Tilden Park. B. Smith notes that this could be an option. Mr. Valentino replies that if the structure were large enough, it could potentially be used to house an inflatable batting cage to be used for baseball. B. Smith notes that parking close to the pavilion has been removed.

Mr. Valentino would also like to see outdoor lighting at the ballfields. Mr. Valentino asks of any plans to renovate the existing structures, with B. Smith noting of plans to improve or renovate several structures.

Shilpa Moser (119 Karen Ct.): She would like to see outdoor lighting for the ballfield/soccer fields.

Heather Hanna (Candidate for PA State House District 5): Asks if the new park entrance road off Park St. could have posted speed limit signs and if the roundabouts by the pool and skate park would be wide enough for emergency vehicles to turn around. B. Smith replies yes to both inquiries.

Ms. Hanna asks about drainage at the green space areas, with B. Smith reporting that areas will have a supplemented soil base to help with infiltration and absorption.

James Hermansader (707 Main St.): Asks about the park drainage, with B. Smith providing an overview of the system, which would be an underdrain system, with trenches being dug into the field and being backfilled with stone, similar to a French drain, which would connect to the drain system on Main St.

Chris Kline (Council): Asks if the stormwater management is in the preliminary stages, with B. Smith replying yes, as there are no firm calculations and pipe sizes. President Kline feels that with Tractor Supply nearby, the pipe in place may not be adequate. B. Smith reports that the majority of the system is new, but if they are unable to tap into the current line or if there is too much stormwater, a new service would need to be installed. A small rain garden is planned to collect more water as well. The system should help to provide for additional infiltration.

Rusty Wagner (Shoemakersville Fire Co.): Feels that additional catch basins will be needed.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks if Council has a security plan for the upgraded park facilities and if there are any plans to control speeding in the area, as the new park will see an increase of traffic to the borough. Mr. Grim and Ms. Kennedy-Kline note that there are cameras in the park and that the park is posted as being under camera surveillance. Mr. Paine asks if the park renovations will create an increased workload for borough staff, with B. Smith noting that the upgrades could actually reduce maintenance, as there will be less grass to mow and the pour in place rubber flooring would reduce the need to maintain the woodchips.

Mr. Paine asks for preliminary costs and possible grants for the project, with B. Smith reporting that the cost will be \$6 million if all options are taken at once. The project would be broken up over a proposed period of 10 years. Vice President Botwright reports that the project has several phases, with the first phase being the completion of a master plan. The borough received a grant to complete the master plan that is currently underway. Once finalized, the plan can then be used to apply for grants to complete the project.

Dana Randazzo (Council): Would like to see park benches along the walking paths.

Larry Wagner (730 Main St.): Asks if the pictures presented will be available online, with Vice President Botwright reporting that the plans will be posted upon availability.

**Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner** – nothing to report

**Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber**

President Kline reports that Mr. Gruber notified Mr. Blankenbiller that he will need to submit another zoning permit, as well as a storm water permit.

Mr. Gruber has spoken with Jarrod Emes regarding emergencies that would require bulk water. Mr. Emes would assist with mass notifications, but the operation of the water system, including receiving bulk water supply, is the responsibility of the borough and the licensed operator.

President Kline reports that fire hydrants will be flushed from Tuesday, October 22 through Thursday, October 24.

**Glen-Gery Subdivision and Land Development**

Iliada Herrera (Bogia Engineering) & Brian Kobularcik (Glen Gery): The proposed sewage line would connect into the Pigeon Creek interceptor and would flow into the borough's wastewater plant. Perry Township approved the planning module. She is seeking the borough's approval on the module. The project is to construct 3 industrial buildings, with a total of 2 million square ft., which would produce 12,000 gpd of waste.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize a borough official to sign the Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline reviews the ARRO response letter regarding the planning module. The borough has the treatment facility and PTMA has the capacity. The letter notes that if the 12,000 gpd goes through the conveyance system, the borough's facility can handle the flow. President Kline notes that the projected flows are 12,000 gpd under Chapter 94 J.2. The 5-year projected flow is 27,000 gpd. He asks why warehouses would have an increase in flow. Mr. Kobularcik and Ms. Herrera report that their flow would be 12,000 gpd, with the projected flow being any additional development that would be proposed within Perry Township. Mr. Kobularcik will have the projections reviewed and confirmed. Ms. Herrera and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss the potential for increased water usage if a manufacturing tenant would be in a warehouse. Mr. Kobularcik reports that there are no current plans for an industrial user, with Ms. Herrera noting that there would need to be another submittal if a change of use would occur. President Kline recommends amending the motion to include the signing and approval of Sections J.2 and J.4 of the Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Amended by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the purchase of a drain cleaning cable and pigtail from Grainer at a cost not to exceed \$800. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the purchase of 2 sets of grates and tops for the Pigeon Creek inlets at a cost of \$2,370. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Wertz asks for clarification on the purchase, with President Kline reporting that the units in place are broken and are not safe to park on. Motion carried unanimously.

**Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith** – nothing to report

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**Water – President Kline** - nothing to report

**Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

Trunk-or-Treat will be at the park on Friday, October 25 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

Briefly discusses Mr. Gruber's sample Grease Trap Ordinance which will be reviewed.

**Employee Relations – President Kline** – nothing to report

**Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for October 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 15, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

Ms. Randazzo would like to have volunteer sign-up sheets, so that anyone coming into the office may volunteer for upcoming community projects or events.

## **New Business**

### **Public Comment**

Heather Hanna (Candidate for PA State House District 5): Believes the park plan looks great.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks how the park plan will be funded, with President Kline reporting that the project will be contingent upon receiving grants.

Mr. Paine asks how Council plans to increase the safety of the borough, as he feels the proposed park upgrades will attract a lot of outside residents into the borough. Speeding in town continues to be an issue. Mr. Paine asks if Council ever considered a joint police force. He and Mr. Grim discuss several prior options that were explored about 10 years ago: A new police force at \$300,000, a regional police force with surrounding municipalities at \$500,000 and both a constable and outside security options, which would have cost and liability factors. Mr. Grim feels the PA State Police is currently the borough's most feasible option. Mr. Paine has family in Kutztown Borough and discusses the crime there. He and Council discuss crime in Kutztown Borough vs. Shoemakersville Borough. Ms. Randazzo discusses a nearby community that recently made improvements in their parks. Mr. Smith has seen an increase in park activity with relation to baseball, soccer and softball utilizing the park.

Mr. Grim feels warehouse traffic and speeding in town are of concern. President Kline is researching collapsible speed tables, which will be a part of the 2025 budget. He discusses several traffic calming devices.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Council President to sign the letter of support for the Perry Commercial Center Project and Mocerri Drive Development for the Penndot Multimodal Transportation Fund Application. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Council President to sign the planning letter for the Perry Commercial Center Project and Mocerri Drive Development for the Penndot Multimodal Transportation Fund Application. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Budget Workshop**

The board recessed into a budget workshop at 8:06 p.m. Regular session reconvened at 9:56 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer