

**PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2021**

Call to Order

Vice Chair Gonze called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gonze led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment Statement

Gonze read the public comment statement "*Ladies and gentlemen, before the Board of Supervisors votes on any matter, the Board will allow for public comment on that particular item. If you wish to be heard at that time, please raise your hand, and you will be recognized*".

Konrath stated that the meeting is being recorded for the limited purpose of preparing the official minutes.

Roll Call

Officials Present:

Gary Konrath – Chair (attended by Zoom)

Peter Gonze – Vice Chair

Reda Briglia - Supervisor

John C. Prevoznik – Solicitor

Charles Unangst – Engineer

Tina Transue – Secretary

New Business

Stormwater Damage to Township Infrastructure/Any Action – Gonze stated that Mr. Unangst and Mike Mader did a site visit to the Devils Hole Road culvert that washed out from Storm Henri. Mr. Unangst explained that part of the pipe from the culvert washed down stream. Mr. Unangst stated that Roadmaster Mader closed the road in that area. Mr. Unangst stated that they received an emergency permit from DEP to replace the pipe. Gonze stated that he was contacted by Mader approximately 11:00 p.m. Sunday night reporting that the pipe had washed out and requesting permission to close the road.

Gonze explained that in light of the emergency need to stabilize the site, the Township was in contact with a contractor to request a quote to repair the damaged culvert and they could begin work as soon as it was approved by the Board. William McGlone, President, Louise Troutman, and Donald Miller were in attendance on behalf of the

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Paradise Heritage Land Trust (PHLT). Also present at the meeting were residents John and Linda Bono and PMVFC Chief Logan Evans. The Pennsylvania Northeast Railroad Authority (PNRRA) was notified by the Township of the meeting but did not attend. Mr. Unangst explained the details of the proposed emergency fix to replace the pipe and how it will impact the connecting properties of the PHLT and Mr. and Mrs. Bono. A discussion ensued regarding how the contractor would access the site to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Miller expressed concern about culverts under the railroad tracks for future consideration for pipe replacements. Mr. Miller's concerns were noted, however, it was made clear that those culverts are on the PNRRA property and are the responsibility of the PNRRA. The PHLT and the Bonos were asked if they had any issues with the Township as proceeding as described of the Devil's Hole Road culvert. Mr. Unangst, after questioning, stated that no PHLT trees would be removed. Ms. Troutman, after consultation with Mr. McGlone, stated on behalf of the Paradise Heritage Land Trust, they approved the use of its property for the necessary emergency repairs on the Devil's Hole Road culvert. Mr. and Mrs. Bono also approved the use of their property to effectuate the emergency repairs. Gonze stated that Papillion & Moyer surveyed the site and gave the Township an hourly rate schedule for the repairs. Gonze explained that until they were on site and started deconstructing the culvert, they would not know the scope of the repair work needed. Accordingly, the contractor was not in position to provide a detailed quote at this time. Gonze stated at this time, Mr. Moyer gave him an estimated cost of \$125,000.00. Solicitor Prevoznik questioned whether the hourly wage rates were at prevailing wage. Gonze stated he was not sure but would confirm with Mr. Moyer.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to approve contracting with Papillion & Moyer for the emergency stabilization of the Devils Hole Road Culvert at prevailing wage.

Motion carried 3-0.

Gonze stated that Mr. Moyer said if the emergency repair was approved they would mobilize on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Co/Fire Protection to Ski Haven Lake Estates – Gonze stated that the Township received letters from Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company (PMVFC) and Pocono Mountain Regional EMS (PMREMS) stating that neither company would cross over the community owned bridge into the Ski Haven Lake Estates community due to safety concerns of the structure. Upon inspection, it was found that the Ski Haven Lake Estates bridge sustained more damage than previously documented as a result of the recent heavy rainstorm. Logan Evans, PMVFC Chief, stated that the PMVFC could not provide full fire protection service to the Ski Haven Lake Estates community until such time as the repairs/replacement of the bridge is completed and an engineer certifies that the bridge can hold the weight of its equipment. The Township also received a copy of a letter from Pocono Township EMC, Jerrod Belvin, addressed to all Pocono Township Emergency Responders requesting all emergency vehicles over 5,200 pounds be restricted from crossing over the bridge. Mr. Unangst stated that he visited the site today and took pictures of the bridge and gave a brief description of the damage that he observed. Mr. Unangst stated that at the time of his site visit, he was informed that the engineering firm, LaBella Engineering, hired by Ski Haven Lake Estates

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was also doing a site visit today. Solicitor Prevoznik suggested that the Board of Supervisors write a letter to the Ski Haven Lake Estates HOA Board stating its position regarding the PMVFC discontinuing full fire protection and emergency services due to emergency equipment being unable to safely cross the bridge. Attorney Prevoznik also recommended that the Township and the PMVFC notify their respective insurance carriers regarding the provision of emergency services to Ski Haven Lake Estates under the current circumstances.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to approve a letter to be written and sent to the Ski Haven Lake Estates Board regarding the position of the Board as to PMVFC discontinuing full fire protection and emergency services due to emergency equipment being unable to safely cross the bridge. A copy of the letter shall be provided to the Township's insurance carrier.

Motion carried 3-0.

Logan Evans stated that it is still the goal of the EMS to respond to emergencies; however, the residents will need to get themselves to the other side of the bridge. If that is not possible, the EMS will contact the PMVFC to request a utility vehicle which can cross the bridge to evacuate the patient.

Unfinished Business

Paradise Streams Restoration Project/Any Action – Gonze stated that this would be discussed in Executive Session.

New Business (Continued)

Sylvan Cascade Road – Mr. Unangst stated that he did a site visit to Sylvan Cascade Road where the bank washed out during Storm Henri. Mr. Unangst took pictures at the site and gave a brief description of the damage to the area. Mr. Unangst made suggestions of future fixes to stabilize the bank on that road. The Board discussed several options to divert traffic from the point of the washout. The Board discussed closing part of the road or temporarily making the road a one way. Konrath stated that the end of Sylvan Cascade Road is in Pocono Township so they should be notified. Gonze stated that he would contact Pocono Township Manager Taylor Munoz to discuss the situation.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to approve closing Sylvan Cascade Road except to local traffic and put up barricades around the area of the road that washed out subject to agreement by Pocono Township.

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to authorize Hanover Engineering to look at options to correct the issues on Sylvan Cascade Road to include short-term traffic patterns for the road and a long-term solution.

Motion carried 3-0.

Paradise Creek Bridge at Red Rock Road – Mr. Unangst stated that he and Mike Mader looked at the bridge over Paradise Creek on Red Rock Road and he suggested contacting PADOT to make them aware that there is a lot of debris stuck under the bridge. Mr.

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Unangst stated that a tree was lodged under the bridge and if not removed before another big storm it may act as a lever and damage the bridge.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to authorize Mr. Unangst to contact PADOT and make them aware of the situation and potential for damage to the bridge due to the heavy debris built up under it.

Motion carried 3-0.

Unfinished Business (Continued)

Seven Pines Park Project – Solicitor Prevoznik stated that the PA State Game Lands has provided the permit to work on their property and the NPDES paperwork has been signed. The approval from Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) for the drainage swale should be forthcoming at which time Kobalt Construction will be ready to construct the drainage swale. Solicitor Prevoznik also reported that Brick Linder was able to obtain the timber harvest plan which was the basis of the harvesting that was performed on the game lands adjacent to Seven Pines Park. Mr. Linder did state, however, that he did not have an opportunity to review it to compare the plan to the actions taken by the harvester. Mr. Linder was recently able to video stormwater flow from the game lands onto Seven Pines Park property. Once Mr. Linder has an opportunity to review the timber harvest plan, he will contact the Monroe County Conservation District to obtain the MCCD's position as to the cause of the damage to Seven Pines Park. Mr. Linder will issue a report to the Township who will then contact the State Game Lands regarding liability if it is appropriate.

Motion: Gonze moved and seconded by Briglia to recess the regular meeting and go into an executive session.

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to reconvene the regular meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.

Solicitor Prevoznik stated that a possible resolution in lieu of litigation for the Paradise Streams Restoration contract was discussed. No decisions were made.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Gonze to approve sending a thank you letter to the Pocono Heritage Land Trust and John and Linda Bono for attending today's meeting and confirming their approval to use their respective properties for the emergency stabilization of the Devil's Hole Road culvert.

Motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment

Motion: Gonze moved and seconded by Briglia to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Transue
Secretary