

Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board Meeting

The October 29, 2019 Meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board was held at the Willistown Township Administration Building at 7:30.

Attendees: Eric Gerst, Chairman; Vice Chairman Ed Johnston; and Board Members John Garvey, Tina Conn, and Rosario Scalia; Willistown Township Public Works Director Bill Hagan; Newtown Township Public Works Director George Sharretts; and Beris Fairclough, Assistant to Mr. Gerst. Also present was Dan Litwin, nominated for the Newtown Township Board member opening which had been held by John Garvey.

Not present: Bartram Historian Chris Gallagher.

No Minutes were recorded at the July 30, 2019 meeting as board member and secretary Tina Conn was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hagan submitted the report and as of October 29, 2019, there is a balance of \$11,394.54. Expenditure of \$7,470.00 was paid to CMC Engineering for their report on Bartram Bridge.

Chairman's Report: Eric Gerst, who was reinstated as Chairman after the resignation in May of Tina Conn, presented Dan Litwin as the new member from Newtown Township to the Joint Preservation Board. Eric will be interviewing for positions on the Willistown Township side. New members will be seated in January 2020.

Eric also has approached Doug Humes, President of Newtown Historical Society, to discuss the possibility of doing fundraising for Bartram Bridge.

Discussion was held about some immediate maintenance that is needed for the bridge. Items discussed were power washing, Christmas lights, signage and tree removal. The most pressing issue is to divert water from entering the bridge which is compromising the abutment on the Willistown side. Ed Johnston had a video from rain the Sunday before the meeting. Bill Hagan, Public Works Director for Willistown, will assist Ed with this issue. Ed contacted someone about doing the power washing and the tree work.

We have been unable to get someone to give us some estimates for repairs on the bridge. Ed will contact Keith Marshall at CMC Engineering again to see if we can get an estimate. We also are going to check with the Delaware County Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical Society about the possibility of grants that are available to do the repairs needed. Ed was given a copy of "Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Covered Bridges" that Tina Conn received through the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania. This book was prepared by the National Parks Department and others. It contains valuable information on some dos and don'ts in rehabilitating covered bridges. Eric has requested that Tina contact some contractors to see if they can review the engineering report with some suggestions on the cost of repairs needed.

Planning for Newtown Township Historical Day in June has been tabled until the January meeting.

Next meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board is scheduled for the last Tuesday in January 28, 2020 at 7:30, at the Newtown Township Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Conn