

January 28, 2020

Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board Meeting

The January 28, 2020 Meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board was held at the Newtown Township Administration Building, at 7:30.

Attendees: Eric Gerst, Chairman; Vice Chairman Ed Johnston; and Board Members Tina Conn and Rosario Scalia; Willistown Township Public Works Director Bill Hagan; and Beris Fairclough, Assistant to Mr. Gerst. Also present was Stephen Nease, Newtown Township Manager, who is attending for George Sharretts, Newtown Township Public Works Director; Dan Litwin, nominated for the Newtown Township Board member opening; and Peter Batchelor, nominated for Willistown Township.

Not present: Newtown Township Public Works Director George Sharretts; and Bartram Historian Chris Gallagher.

Minutes: Tina Conn distributed the October 29, 2019 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hagan submitted the report and as of December 31, 2019, there is a balance of \$11,243.40.

Chairman's Report: Eric Gerst did introductions as there are two new members to be seated this evening, Dan Litwin, from Newtown Township, and Peter Batchelor, from Willistown Township. Eric also gave a quick history of the Board.

Tina Conn informed the Board that she is resigning her position as of this meeting. She thanked the Board for the work that has been done through years by the commission, and feels confident that the commission will continue to do great work. The Board will send a commendation letter.

Election of Officers: The slate of officers was presented by Eric Gerst, and seconded by Rosario Scalia, and unanimously adopted.

Eric Gerst - Chairman (Willistown)

Ed Johnston - Vice Chairman (Newtown)

Rosario Scalia - Board Member (Newtown)

Dan Litwin - Board Member (Newtown)

Peter Batchelor- Board Member (Willistown)

Ed Johnston reported that he replaced the timer for the lights on the bridge and replaced light bulbs. He reported that a contractor to do power washing was unable to perform that process before that cold weather arrived and won't be able to do until spring. Ed and Bill Hagan did some preliminary work on the Willistown side to divert the water from the bridge by digging a trench and placing sandbags there. This is a pressing issue as the stone abutment can be compromised. Discussion was held about tree removal of a large tree trunk with root ball that is on the Willistown side. It is not known at this time whether it is on private property or part of the bridge property. Bill Hagan will check on this for the commission. If removal needs to be done there will be permits needed for the crane work, flaggers and police presence. PennDot may need to be contacted for this project. Steve Nease, Newtown Township Manager, said he may be able to help along with Willistown Township Manager Sally Slook and both their Public Works Departments.

Chris Gallagher, our historian, is still trying to find someone to check for the historic graffiti that was reported in a couple of books.

Our 501(c)3, Friends of Bartram Covered Bridge Historical Society, has suspended its endeavors until a fundraising plan is established and then payment can be made for our insurance. The insurance for the Friends was paid for through the townships for the first two years and will be paid once more when a fundraising plan has been established. The Board Members are currently covered by the Townships' insurance as Joint Preservation Board Members.

We are looking for fundraising help. Doug Humes may be a source. He has currently advertised on the Newtown Historical Society page to sell the book on the bridge.

A review of the CMC Engineering Report commissioned by the Bartram Bridge Board was undertaken at the meeting. Steve Nease suggested that we take this report and use it to set a plan for the order of items to be done and the money needed. Peter Batchelor, our new member, will be reviewing this report to see if he can put a monetary value to the improvements needed. He will also meet with Ed Johnston at the bridge, tentatively scheduled for this Thursday, to see the damage firsthand. Headed by Peter and Ed, we will try to have a draft of the report to the Township Managers by the beginning of April 2020, so we can possibly present to the Townships' Board of Supervisors in April. Steve Nease thought that after we prioritize the needs of the bridge that the two townships could set up capital programs to repair and improve the bridge that could be incorporated into their budgets each year. He also suggested that we begin to do a once-a-year

presentation to the Board of Supervisors for each Township on what is going on with Bartram Bridge.

Due to the length of this meeting, the planning for Newtown Township Historical Day in June was not held.

Here is the schedule for our meetings for the remainder of 2020. **Please note the time change from 7:30pm to 6:30pm. The new time of 6:30pm for the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board Meeting will be advertised by the respective townships.**

Tuesday, April 28, 2020, **6:30pm**, Willistown Township Administration Building

Tuesday, July 28, 2020, **6:30pm**, Bartram Bridge, Goshen and Boot Roads

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, **6:30pm**, Newtown Township Administration Building

Next meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at **6:30pm**, at the Willistown Township Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Conn