

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board, 7:30 PM, July 28, 2020, at the bridge.**

Present for the meeting were: board members Eric D. Gerst, chair; Ed Johnston, Rosario Scalia, & Dan Litwin.

Also present for the meeting: William Hagan, Willistown Township Public Works Manager; George Sharets, Newtown Township Public Works manager; and Beris Fairclough, assistant to Mr. Gerst.

All persons attending the meeting were wearing masks and served social distancing of 6 feet during the meeting.

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present.

Treasurers report prepared by Willistown Township was approved.

Chairman's report – Eric Gerst reported that at the informal meeting in May 2020, those attending discussed and educated themselves on the various engineering studies. The consensus was that we would present the recommendation for the McCormick engineering study to be approved as a recommendation to the Townships for Willistown and Newtown Board of Supervisors to allow the engineering study to proceed. We will wait until the supervisors of both townships approve the study before we commit.

Gerst also reported that there were \$60 in Bartram bridge book sales, deposited in the bank.

Vice chairs report – Ed Johnston reported that the power wash of the bridge should commence next two weeks, upon board approval. The board approved the power wash expenditure. Johnston also will contact McCormick engineering to have them add to their report an estimate of the costs for the entire restoration of the Bartram bridge, prioritizing the most critical parts of the project.

Rosario Scalia and William Hagan offered suggestions as to presentation of the approval request to the Board of Supervisors of both townships. William Hagan reported that Willistown Township was questioning the CDC preliminary study, plus the cost of the McCormick study. It was the consensus of the board that we make sure McCormick can produce building plans from which an estimate can be obtained, all as part of the \$13,500 cost. George Sharets reported that Newtown Township put a hold on capital projects for the foreseeable future, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Resolved**, that the board authorizes the power wash to eliminate mold on the bridge, contract to be negotiated by Ed Johnston, and power washing to be completed within the next two weeks. Payment shall be out of existing funds.

**Resolved**, that the board ratifies at this July 28, 2020 meeting, the recommendations discussed at the May 2020 informal meeting regarding engineering studies.

**Resolved**, that the board recommends the contract approval for McCormick to do a study, subject to prior approval of the townships, complete with blue print plans; and further, that McCormick to obtain estimates regarding repair and restoration of the Bartram bridge; and in this regard, authorizes the chairman to send a letter to both Willistown Township supervisors and Newtown Township supervisors requesting approval of the engineering study proposal of McCormick for the sum of \$13,600

[Representatives of the Bartram board will also attempt to be present at the respective Township supervisors meetings; and that the Bartram representatives shall be authorized to answer questions about the necessity for restoration and repair of the historic structure.

Chairman Gerst also reported that Vince Pompo, solicitor for Willistown Township, was invited to the July 28, 2020 meeting, but was busy and so an invite was extended for him to attend the October 27, 2020 meeting of the board to instruct the board as to his interpretation of the Pennsylvania sunshine act as it applies to the actions of the Bartram board, i.e. regarding advertising & official meetings.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 27, 2020, and Newtown Township, beginning at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

S/

Eric D. Gerst, Bartram Board Chair

---

Note: since the 501©(3) Friends of the Bartram Covered Bridge Historical Society, N.A. has temporarily suspended operations, the meeting of the Friends Board was canceled until further notice. No business was conducted.