

## **Draft -Minutes of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board held on October 27, 2020**

A meeting of the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board was held on October 27, 2020, via zoom set up by Newtown Township. The meeting location was changed from the Newtown Township administration building to a virtual zoom meeting, because of the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

Present for the meeting were board members: Eric D Gerst, Chair; Ed Johnston, Vice Chair; Rosario Scalia, MD; and Daniel Litwin. Also present for the meeting was proposed board member from Willistown, Bart Vana Valkenbergh.

Also present for the meeting were: William Hagan, Willistown Public Works Director, and George Sharetets, Newtown Township Public Works Dir.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric D Gerst. A quorum was present.

**Minutes** from the July 28, 2020 meeting at the bridge were distributed and approved.

**Treasurers report:** Treasurers Report was given by William Hagan, as prepared by Willistown staff and approved.

**Presidents report:** Chairman Eric D Gerst gave an update to the board as to the extensive engineering studies for Bartram Bridge which needed to be decided upon. Also he discussed that Vince Pompo , Willistown solicitor was invited to the meeting to discuss the advertising requirements for public meetings under the Pennsylvania sunshine act, but he was unable to attend. Mr. Gerst also introduced Bart Van Valkenbergh as the proposed new member from Willistown for the Bartram Bridge Joint Preservation Board. Mr. Van Valkenbergh presented his extensive historical experience to the board.

**Historical report** – the historical report was unavailable. The board will reach out to the historian to see if there is any new development on the graffiti project, and if so, will report back to the board.


**Engineering discussion** – an extensive discussion was had between all attendees, on the engineering study needed for the bridge. While the board favored the McCormick Taylor engineering study for the bridge, it was felt that the proposal lacked the preparation of engineering plans which should be part of the \$13,600 estimate. To this end, the board formed a Bartram Bridge engineering committee consisting of Ed Johnston, Dan Litwin, and Bart Van Valkenbergh to meet directly with McCormick Taylor representatives, after a meeting is coordinated through Willistown public works director William Hagan who will be calling McCormick Taylor. The purpose of the committee will be to review the specific details of the engineering study proposal, which should include as part of the \$13,600 estimate, a preparation of engineering plans sufficient to obtain estimates, prioritizing the projects to be accomplished, and supervising the construction. Ed Johnston will also contact the Retttw Company of Lancaster County to review the scope and cost of their proposal.

**Site improvements report:** Ed Johnston reported that the power washing on the Goshen Road side of Bartram Bridge has been accomplished. He will submit the small invoice to the townships, and he will see to it that the power washed areas are repainted.

**501©(3) report:** the board agreed to request the townships to pay the \$225 reapplication fee to the IRS, for reinstatement as a charitable fundraising entity, and that Helen Mountain, Esq. should make the

application for the board. Upon reinstatement, the Friends of Bartram Covered Bridge Historical Society, N.A. will resume its fundraising program.

**Budget:** once the engineering study is done on the bridge and an estimate is received, board members will prepare a budget for approval, and will appear before Willistown Township and Newtown Township.

 **New board member:** The board unanimously approved that the name of Bart Van Valkenbergh be presented to the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors for approval to become a Bartram Bridge board member.

**Newtown historical day** – discussion of Newtown historical day, usually held on the first Saturday in June, was tabled until the January 2021 meeting

**Next Meeting:** Mr. Gerst announced the next public meeting of the board will be on the last Tuesday of January 2021, which is Tuesday, January 28, 2021, starting at 7:30 PM at the Willistown Township administration building.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Gerst, Chairman/Sec.