

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for June 2021 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Pransky, Areman, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Christopher Clewell, Public Works Superintendent; and Joseph Bagley, Esq., Township Solicitor.  
Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 9:28 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of May 2021:

- a. Property Maintenance Supervisor
- b. Public Information Officer
- c. Director of Parks and Recreation – Mr. Hinson updated the Committee on the status of the pool openings. Glenside Pool opened Memorial Day weekend, and over 300 people visited on Memorial Day. Conklin Pool will be opening June 19. He thanked Public Works for their help in opening the pools. Mr. Areman asked for the rationale behind the reduced pool hours this year. Mr. Hinson said they are 12-3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., instead of 12-8 p.m. as it had been pre-pandemic, to allow opportunity to sanitize the restrooms and keep staff and the public safe during the pandemic. This schedule was developed in consultation with Emergency Management and other guidance. In response to Mr. Areman's questions about poor behavior, Mr. Hinson asked that parents talk with their children to ask them to be mindful of other people at the pool. Staff will suspend people from the pool if they are disrupting the experience for other members. Mr. Holland asked if the pool could be cleaned before the pool opens, rather than closing the pool early. Mr. Hinson said that would conflict with swimming lessons in the morning.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the meeting minutes as stated above.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:

- a. Historical Commission – May 13, 2021  
Ms. Rappoport discussed the historical marker outline and approach proposed by the Historical Commission (see attached). Mr. Pransky asked that the Commission ensure that the owner of the property is on board before moving forward with the marker.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously voted to permit the Historical Commission to move forward with implementing the historical marker program.

- b. Twinning Committee – No May Meeting
- c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – May 11, 2021
- d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – May 27, 2021
- e. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – May 6, 2021

Ms. Rappoport thanked Liza Meiris for her work on a flyer promoting the Civil Rights Task Force. Ms. Rappoport made a few wording suggestions and Mr. Pransky asked that the fact that the Civil Right Task Force is a Township citizens advisory committee be clarified.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously supported the Civil Rights Task Force's flyer, with amendments as proposed by the Committee.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the meeting minutes as stated above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2021 and April 26, 2021

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

4. Introduction of Mary Kay Moran, Interim Director of the Cheltenham Township Library System.  
Ms. Moran said she has been with the Library since 2016 and was asked by the Library Board to serve as Interim Director. She thanked Township staff for all their help in getting her up to speed as she takes on new duties and reported that library branches are preparing to return to close to pre-pandemic status. Elkins Park Library will be fully open except for its digital media lab due lack of ventilation. Glenside Library will open fully on June 15 and East Cheltenham will reopen on June 18. La Mott will reopen by appointment for computer use, collection browsing, and use of the study corrals by the end of June. Patrons will be asked to continue to wear a mask, distance, and limit time to one hour to protect patrons.

5. Presentation from Tom Murt on giving Royal Avenue a ceremonial name in honor of Bishop McDevitt School.

Mr. Murt said Bishop McDevitt, situated on Royal Avenue in Wyncote, celebrated its last graduating class this year and asked for a ceremonial name to honor its service to the community since it opened its doors in 1958. Suggested locations and names were discussed (see attached).

The Committee tabled action on this item for further consideration.

6. Presentation from Friends of High School Park on the 2021 Healing the Planet Grant Program.  
Cynthia Blackwood presented a project for the hillside facing the apartment complex, for which the Friends of High School Park intends to apply for a \$25,000 Healing the Planet Grant through the Giant Corporation. Four native perennial gardens are being proposed (see attached for a detailed description). She asked the Township as the landowner to support the submission of the grant application and project.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners support the submission of a grant application by the Friends of High School Park through the Giant Corporation's Healing the Planet Grant Program in the amount of \$25,000 for perennial plantings on the hillside in High School Park.

7. Report of the Township Manager

Mr. Zienkowski said he would like to begin a conversation on the Township's facilities. Its facilities are in declining condition with significant expenses coming up. He would like to begin the discussion at committee meetings in July and split the discussion up between the committees. The Committee was supportive of this idea.

8. New Business

9. Old Business

10. Approval of Expenditures over \$2,500

a. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order for Ten-Trac, Inc. in the amount of \$24,100.00 to recolor coat, reline and do crack repairs to the Ogontz Tennis Courts.

b. Upon motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order for C&C Family Roofing and Siding in the amount of \$2,800.00 to replace the roof of the CO2 room at Glenside Pool.

c. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order for Henry J. Thompson Plumbing and Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$2,985.00 for plumbing repairs at Glenside Pool.

11. Announcements

12. Citizens' Forum – None.

13. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Areman, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m.



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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager

DRAFT

## Cheltenham Township Historical Commission

### Township Historical Marker Program

April 2, 2021

#### Purpose

Cheltenham Township dates back to the founding of the Commonwealth by William Penn in 1681. From that time to the present, events, structures, and persons have significantly impacted the development of our community.

The purpose of the Township Historical Marker (THM) Program is to identify sites within the Township of historical significance, or locations associated with historical figures and events, and mark those sites with an official Township marker. Further, the establishment to these historical sites can be used to promote the residential and commercial benefit of the community. The Cheltenham Township Historical Commission (CTHC) will administer the program.

#### Criteria for Approval

- Persons, places, events, organizations, natural features, structures of architectural significance, or innovations, are eligible to be recognized.
- The subject of recognition must have had a significant impact on the Cheltenham community. OR;
- If a person, the subject must have been a member of the Cheltenham community and made notable contributions to the nation or world. A physical location must be associated with the subject person.
- The subject of recognition must be historically established, and not simply of passing or contemporary interest.
- The subject of recognition may not be already marked with a County, State, or National memorial.

#### Selection Process

There will be three paths to initiate consideration:

- The CTHC Markers Committee will initially assemble a list of candidates for recognition as part of the institution of this program.

- The CTHC Markers Committee will accept nominations from members as a matter of regular business in the future.
- Members of the public may submit nominations to the CTHC Markers Committee along with a description of the subject for recognition and a statement of its importance.

The CTHC Markers Committee will review all nominations and forward recommended subjects to the full CTHC for approval.

Upon approval, the CTHC Markers Committee will compose an appropriate inscription that will describe the importance of the subject within the physical limitations of the actual marker. Appropriate significant dates should be part of the inscription.

The inscription will be forwarded to the CTHC for approval.

Upon approval, the inscription and recommendation will be forwarded to the Township liaison to obtain Township approval.

### Design of the Marker

At the appropriate time, the Chair of the CTHC will charge the CTHC Markers Committee with the task of designing the physical parameters of the Township marker. Further, the Chair, in consultation with the committee, will recruit and appoint a qualified graphic designer as a member of the committee to assist in the development of the marker.

The final design will be submitted to the CTHC for approval and then to the Township for final approval.

### Administration

The CTHC Markers Committee will develop a set of procedures and forms for obtaining permission from current property owners for permission to locate the markers on their property.

The CTHC Markers Committee will establish the proper location for each approved marker.

The CTHC Markers Committee will arrange the manufacture of the marker and arrange with the Township for the installation of the marker.

## Suggested Placement of Signs

Royal & Easton

Royal & Rices Mill

## Suggested Naming Possibilities

Bishop McDevitt Royal Lancer  
Memorial Highway

Bishop McDevitt High School  
Memorial Highway

Royal Lancer  
Memorial Highway

Bishop McDevitt  
Memorial Highway

## Suggested Color Scheme

Black & Gold & White

## **2021 Healing the Plant Grant, funded by the Giant Company**

We are seeking \$25,000.00 to fund the

“The Hillside Native Sun Perennial Gardens”

### Project parameters:

- Four Perennial Gardens to be located along the Park’s front Hillside, extending from the entrance driveway at the corner of High School Road, and Montgomery Avenue, down the hillside toward High School Road.
- Gardens will be no larger than 8feet by 10feet in oval-ish shapes.
- Each garden will be planted with native perennial flowers with small shrubs along the edges, bordered with stone retaining walls (under 3ft) built into the hillside. So far, one garden has been defined as a tribute to the Lenape tribe and their Native Medicinal plants. All gardens will also include educational signage to mirror the BYN Shade perennial garden across the way at the upper entrance to the park.
- Paths will wind in and around the gardens allowing the visitors to examine the plants, read the educational signs and make notes for their own home gardens.
- Entrance to the gardens and their paths will be from the side and/or from the top edge of the driveway.
- The knee high fencing at the edge of the Handicap Parking area will be extended down the driveway toward the corner for safety. (we have already received a small grant for this)
- Native grasses will be planted along the inside of the fencing.
- Part 2 of the Project will be the planting of a Native Fruit orchard lower on the hillside, toward the sidewalk, but at a distance so that any fallen fruit would not be a problem. Berry bushes would be planted on the far side of the hillside (away from the corner and toward the inside of the park)
- As always we will approach the project in stages, applying for grants, fundraising “shout-outs” and approaching volunteers for the final planting.
- I am asking you this evening, as the owners of the High School Park land, for support in our endeavor to continue our stewardship of the park for the education and enjoyment of the community as a whole.