



KENNETT TOWNSHIP

TO: Kennett Township Board of Supervisors
FROM: Eden Ratliff, Township Manager
SUBJECT: April 2021 Department Head Report

1. 5 Points Round About

Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced investments in 43 multimodal projects across the commonwealth. Chester County was awarded funds for four projects including \$2,193,550 to Kennett Township to fund a roundabout at ‘five points’ intersection. The project will install a roundabout at the intersection of South Union Street, Kaolin Road, Hillendale Road, and Old Kennett Road and will enhance the safety of the regions’ residents and commuters, reduce growing congestion, and increase traffic efficiency. The Township’s local match to the project is \$767,743 for a total project costs of \$2,961,293. Final engineering is expected to begin in summer 2021. The Press Release about this is available on the Township website.

2. Greenway Update

At the April 7th Board of Supervisors meeting the Board voted unanimously to proceed with final engineering and design for the Kennett Greenway on Chandler Mill Road and West South Street. The staff has since had a scoping meeting with the trails consultants to discuss the details about next steps. The goal is to proceed with engineering and design of the project while still allowing for efficient public engagement, managing the permitting process with outside agencies, and managing costs. We are also looking at additional grant opportunities for the project including joint applications with the Borough of Kennett Square and New Garden Township.

3. Brandywine Scenic Byway Earns National Designation

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced in early March that the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway in Chester and Delaware counties has received a National Scenic Byways (NSB) Designation from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The NSB application [by the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission (BVSBC),] entailed the support of the five participating municipalities including Chadds Ford Township, East Bradford Township, Kennett Township, Pennsbury Township, and Pocopson Township. In addition, letters of support were provided to FHWA by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Chester County Planning Commission, Delaware County Planning Department, Chester and Delaware County Conference and Visitors Bureaus, Delaware Greenways (BVNSB in Delaware) and numerous other stakeholders.

We are so thankful to John Haedrich and Tom Nale, Kennett Township's representatives to the BVSBC for their hard work on this. To read more of this article written by John, please see page 17 of the Kennett Township 2021 Spring Newsletter available online at <https://www.kennett.pa.us/156/Newsletters>.

4. Fire and Rescue Territory Agreement

The Board of Supervisors held a special meeting on April 15th to discuss Fire and Rescue territory in Kennett Township after an affirmative vote from the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission to increase funding by \$254,000 for paid fire fighters in Kennett Fire Company. The vote of the Commission and the Board of Supervisors are moves toward a regional command structure while still supporting the individual fire companies and their identities and history. The Kennett Fire Company is going to vote on the proposal at a company meeting on April 27th. Policy Briefing Summary available on the website.

5. Wastewater Infrastructure

Kennett Township is continuing to work with Mitchell Homes and the Borough of Kennett Square on sewer infrastructure challenges. The Township sends sewer to the Borough where it is processed in their wastewater treatment facility. There are infrastructure challenges in the Township and the Borough that are creating capacity issues which hinder prospective development. Additionally, some of the infrastructure is failing and in need of upgrades that the municipalities want to address with developers. These issues are critical to address for existing and future customers as the Township desires to provide sewer to existing residents and manage growth pressure.

The Township is also initiative a regional meeting with the Borough of Kennett Square, East Marlboro Township, and Longwood Gardens to explore the value of a joint Act 537 Plan. An Act 537 Plan is a sewer planning module that holders of sewer NPDES permits are required to have. The plan illustrates how current sewer is addressed along with how it will be expanded and managed if it intends to add customers. The three listed partners along with Kennett Township each have unique challenges with their existing sewer systems and pressure to expand the systems. Regional cooperation may be an option to address these challenges.

6. COVID-19 Vaccination Site

Chester County has been issued a special event permit from the Kennett Township Planning and Zoning Department to hold a drive through vaccination site at the Longwood Gardens parking lot on Route 1 in Kennett Township. The plan has been thoroughly reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Department and the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator. Longwood Gardens continues to be a strong and reliable partner in the fight against COVID-19 allowing their property to be used for testing in 2020, vaccination in 2021, and contributing financially to research of the virus and vaccine.

7. Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Audit

The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission has submitted two action items for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The bylaws of the Commission state that the municipalities must vote to approve or disapprove the presented budget and notify the Commission and member municipalities of the vote outcome. The internal audit of the Commission is also attached for review by the Board of Supervisors.

8. Edge Lane Roads

The Township is working with the Township Engineer, Trails and Sidewalks Committee, and some Kennett Township citizens to explore areas where an Edge Lane Road (ELR) may be feasible. ELRs have many regulations from the state and federal governments including road stress, sight distance, and vehicle speeds which makes it challenging to implement in a rural township. The current goal is to identify potential areas where an ELR may be feasible and ask the Board of Supervisors for permission to run a temporary experiment to determine the reaction of travelers and overall feasibility. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this report on some activities within the Township.

Respectfully Submitted.

Eden R. Ratliff
Township Manager