

**Halifax Township
Board of Supervisors Special Workshop
June 14, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors Bechtel, Shultz, Stopfel, Eppley and Hoover are present. The Solicitor is absent.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Discussion on key issues of the Ft. Halifax Park Master Site Plan.

OPENING DISCUSSION: Alice Trowbridge opened meeting with a vision statement. Discussion continued on funding aspects for the park and various ideas on the layout of the park as it pertains to buffers, entrances, tree grouping, trails, type of grasses for planting on fields, wild flower planting and railroad crossing issues.

Questions on the park came from Colleen Smith who asked about primitive camping and who is to oversee this because there is current activity at the park. Jim Wentzel raised concern about the idea of a footbridge and the threat of such a structure being washed away with flood waters. Chairman Bechtel commented on the bank restoration plan and the construction pertaining to the bridge, Fred Ford as Chairman of the Sewer and Water Authority talked about the proposed idea by those involved in the master site plan to have the Authority run pipes for public sewage to the park, the cost of such a project and asks how is this proposed to be funded. Supervisor Shultz commented about the right of way on Buffalo Park Road. Jim Eppley stated the poles would be a marker for the road. He also mentioned obtaining evaluation maps pertaining to the farm crossing. Frank Wilmarth commented on the possibility of an existing private crossing agreement with the railroad and possible ways to reach an agreement to use the railroad crossing as a public crossing. Melinda Warfel asks how the Conshar tract of land impacts the park property due to the fact that it runs parallel with the railroad tracks and is located between the railroad tracks and the park property. The answer was that this is part of the township's deed and the individual does not own this land.

Buffalo Park Road – Discussion and questions arose regarding this area as a public entrance to the park. Specific comments were made regarding clarification needed as to whether or not this road is vacated, what specific road reconstruction would be needed, cost of the road project and the funding for this.

Archaeological Survey - It was stated this has to be done before development of the park. Information as to various techniques was discussed.

Adaptive Reuse of Buildings – Proposed restoration and use was presented. The Board of Supervisors opinions on this issue stands divided. Supervisor Stopfel stated casino money could be sought for restoration of these buildings.

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INGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION – Bonnie Mahoney of Larson Design Group initiated discussion on this document and the different aspects of the agreement. The Board is divided on their opinion of this document and the majority does not want to be locked into this agreement as presented. Bonnie stated this document would create an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and it can be modified to suit the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Stopfel commented on grants and her frustration on trying to obtain these. After much discussion and statements from the public as well as from some of the Board members regarding the initial expense for the park as well as the long term expenses to be incurred, Alice and Bonnie stated they will accept written comments and concerns from the public and the Board and come back to the Board with more information. Supervisor Hoover suggested obtaining the Solicitor's opinion and recommendation regarding this agreement. Larson Design agreed to make modifications to the document and bring back to the Board.

MASTER SITE PLAN SCHEDULE: Project is to be closed out in September with a final public meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Hoover made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Nye, Secretary.