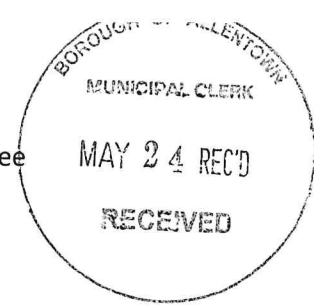


Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
March 15, 2021  
Meeting Minutes



*Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 7:05 pm and the following statement was read:

"In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Act', Chapter 231, PL 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in a public space and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law."

Those present were: Allison Arnone, Jan Meerwarth, Jan Buchalski, Rob Strovinsky, Lisa Strovinsky, and Terry Brown. Suzanne Smith was excused absent. A quorum was present

*Minutes Review*

Terry Brown motioned to approve the February 15, 2021 minutes, Lisa Strovinsky seconded; motion passed unanimously.

*Public Present*

There was no public present

*Old Business*

*Ashby Park update*

Phase I Change Order Scope: Allison Arnone heard from Monmouth County Open Space and they do not want any Phase II work added on to Phase I as an option. Option 1 is already in Phase II so that can't be done. Allison suggesting to 1) remove stumps at cemetery fence line. DCRS estimated \$1,000 for that work. 2) replace fencing at the cemetery for \$7,800 (which includes removal and replacement). Fencing will not be chain link, probably wood. 3) Ed Confair recommends starting the raingardens at the south end of the park. Use \$30,000 (of the \$40,000 "extra") to start working the ground there. Natural way to filter the run-off and stop flooding. Allison notes that Monmouth Conservation Fund wants to help develop this and feels they can raise the \$60,000-\$80,000 required to fully develop the raingardens. 4) Ed reported that DCRS' estimate for fencing at the Broad St entrance was high. Rob Strovinsky noted he did some research and it is more prudent for DPW to install the fencing there than DCRS. Lisa Strovinsky expressed concern that if construction began on the raingardens and then no additional funding was received what would happen. Would there just be a mess and dirt sitting there? Ed already spoke to George at DCRS regarding this. The raingarden would be start to finish of a smaller raingarden area that would be a stand-alone (if no additional funding was received) or could be added on to (if additional funding was received). Jan Meerwarth questioned if the entire fence along the cemetery would be replaced or just the parcel that borders the park. Rob noted we would need permission from Union AME Church but that DCRS could do the portion bordering the park with DPW completing it. Jan M recommended a separate meeting regarding fencing because it is so inclusive with so many other areas in town. She suggested that Nick Pellichiaro (DPW) and a church representative could be present at that meeting for their input. Allison noted that stump removal and cemetery fencing require no additional design fees. Allison suggested that the design fees for the raingarden be absorbed into the design fee for Phase II. Ed noted he could provide those designs prior to Phase II so DCRS could complete in Phase I. Jan Buchalski suggested that the fencing at the Broad St entrance match the fencing at the cemetery, not two separate looks. Allison recommended a vote on

the cemetery and proceed from there. Jan M again stated that there should be an additional meeting regarding fencing. Rob also suggested putting split rail fencing along the resident's property immediately adjacent to the Hamilton St entrance and since DPW could do that, there would be no issue with the grant. Rob also noted that the borough is still waiting on Greg Cannon for any information on the deed transfer of the cemetery. Fencing will be voted on at next month's meeting. Jan B motioned to approve change order for Phase I, Terry Brown seconded; unanimously approved.

Phase II scope review and design details: Allison noted that the ground penetrating radar (GPR) findings need to be submitted to NJ SHIPO. 1) Allison spoke with Mayor Fritts, Laurie Roth and John Elder requesting the borough consider a consultant for signage and wayfinding throughout the borough for a comprehensive package. Rob stated he can talk to June Maddon, CFO about the possible monies available. Ed reached out to a firm in Monmouth County and they estimated just for Ashby would be \$15,000 (just for design and detailed drawings). Jan B showed the committee the Monmouth Conservation Fund sign that needs to be installed at the completion of Phase I. She also mentioned the bank sign that needs to be installed at end of Phase I as well. Allison noted there will be a design decision for Phase II at the April meeting.

#### *New Business*

Focus group: Allison brought up the formation of a focus group for the history of the underrepresented African American community. Martha Johnson gave Allison names of those interested and a group will be put together and meetings initiated.

Pearl Street planting bed: Terry sent out an email of drawings using existing plants donated from Pleasant Run Nursery. Shade Tree will be putting in some arborvitaes along the back of the property secondary to resident complaints of headlights going into homes. Jan B asked if milkweed could be planted there as well but Terry and Lisa noted the area is not suitable for milkweed. Jan B motioned to approve the drawings, Allison seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Traffic mitigation letter: Laurie Roth sent out a template of a letter asking residents/commissions/committees to submit regarding the traffic through town

#### *Next Meeting*

April 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm

#### *Adjournment*

There being no further business, at 8:08, Terry Brown motioned to adjourn, Jan Meerwarth seconded.