Good Afternoon,

In addition to assisting Streets Dept. with clearing the last snowfall, clearing Borough pedestrian right-of-ways and working on our own park pedestrian areas, as is typical for this time of year, we are working on preparing for projects for the early spring and applying for grant funding for pending projects. Below please find a summary of actions taken in February and pending for March.

• Repairs were made to the backstop at Memorial Park Field #2 from damage suffered during the August 4, 2020 flood. We upgraded the size of the concrete footers to guard against future flood damage to the uprights. Fields will be ready for 2021 Spring season pending approval of any applicable Covid-19 plans.

• LandStudies Inc was retained to begin design work on streambank stabilization in Riverfront Park to protect and preserve the pedestrian bridge, a key connection for the park and the SRT. Work on design will begin in March with a target date for restoration work to take place in the Spring. This project will armor and stabilize the eastern bank of the Manatawny Creek in Riverfront Park 100’ above and 75’ below the pedestrian bridge. This will also remove a large gravel bar from the waterway allowing the creek-flow to return to the center of the channel and prevent further bank erosion. Upon completion of the project the pedestrian bridge abutment should be preserved against damage caused by erosion fueled by high-water events.

• We applied to and received preliminary confirmation of funding through DCED for repair of storm damages to the Sundstrom baseball complex on Manatawny Street. Special funding in the amount of $125,000 will be made available to repair damages from the 2019 flash flood, though final confirmation is pending. This will include replacement of the player benches area on the 3rd base line, backstop, fencing, electrical upgrades, retaining wall repair on the 1st base line and a consideration for swales to redirect future flood currents away from the more sensitive areas. Upon confirmation of funding we will consult design professionals to form a work plan that includes considerations to mitigate future flood damage.

• Application for Memorial Park bridge replacement and streambank restoration was made in the amount of $200,000 to MontCo 2040 Grant. March will see submission of a companion grant to DCNR C2P2 program for $150,000. DCED C2P2 will be targeted for the same project for $200,000. Design work will commence in the Spring and project execution will be targeted for 2022 as funding awards will not be announced until Fall of 2021. The design contract for the project will be awarded following staff recommendations, which will be reached at the end of this week.

• Parks and Recreation Dept. will launch the new web portal Pottstown.recdesk.com at the end of the week to handle program registrations and facility rentals. This will streamline this service and incorporate most functions online. Any rentals for the 2021 season will be subject to review of covid-19 plans before approval. We expect an updated outdoor recreation and athletics plan from the Governor’s office in the next 6 week. We expect it to be similar to the guidelines issued last year. These guidelines are developed in cooperation with the PA Parks and Recreation Society (PRPS). PRPS have been instrumental in soliciting guidelines from the Governor’s office to provide us a clear direction for seasonal operations during the pandemic.

• We are in the process of collecting quotes for repair of the Trilogy BMX building roof (50 sq feet) to be executed this April.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about these projects or any other park projects.

Thank You,

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Parks and Recreation Director
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