

# **BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 5, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**6 p.m. – Executive Session – Legal**

**6:30 p.m. Work Session – Compost Facility Discussion; Parking Lot A & H**

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The March 5, 2018 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence (to pay respect to fallen Armed Forces members and Council members who have passed).

## **ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Randall Brachbill  
Mr. Evan Duffey  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Mr. Douglas Johnson  
Mr. Michael Prendergast  
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Mayor Tom Wilson

**EXCUSED:** Ms. Renee Brown

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Mr. Don Holderman, Borough Assistant Manager

**GUESTS:** Emma Gonsalvez, *The Express*  
Todd Smith P.E., ELA Group  
Ken Bean, BASD  
Joseph Griffin  
Ted Conklin  
Carla Conklin

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**APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION NOTES:**

**Brachbill moved to approve the February 19, 2018 Council work session notes;**  
**Duffey seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Hombosky moved to approve the February 19, 2018 meeting minutes;**  
**Prendergast seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of Council request specific items to be removed for separate action).

*Finance – Invoice from Stover McLaughlin*

**Brachbill moved to approve the Consent Agenda;**  
**Johnson seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Written:**

***Letter requesting a traffic light at Parkview and Bishop (J. Guether)***

Stewart explained that Holderman responded to this request and gave some background to the intersection with hope at some point there is a traffic light installed at that location.

***Regional Tree Commission Meeting***

There is only save the date information on this meeting – March 28, 2018 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
More details are forthcoming

***Email Bellefonte Little League Field Usage Request***

Requesting use of Talleyrand Extension and the Armory Property. They would like to have games there i.e. t-ball, starting in March and running for a few months. Details are in the email.

**Brachbill moved to approve the request;**  
**Duffey seconded the motion;**

The fields have not been used for this purpose before. There is no lighting, so the games would have to be over by dusk. Holderman has concerns with parking at Talleyrand but the armory property, until it is sold, is not a problem. Tosti-Vasey explained that she was not sure if they were asking for use of both fields or one or the other. Stewart explained they do want both if they can. Prendergast offered that it would be nice to see kids at the park after work hours. Tosti-

Vasey also liked the idea of using the armory property as it has not had much use. Restrooms were discussed. They are not opened at Talleyrand during the time requested and there are no facilities at the armory. Holderman explained that the restrooms would probably be opened for the Easter Egg Hunt.

**Motion carried.**

***Chicken Ordinance reconsideration by the Bellefonte Borough***

Stewart explained that this came up a few years ago, and at that time Council decided not to adopt an ordinance to allow backyard chickens. This request has been renewed.

Tosti-Vasey inquired about considering the possibility or a flat-out no. Council decided to pursue the inquiry. Mr. Prendergast stated that if the ordinance is done properly, it would make everyone happy. The State College ordinance was discussed. This would be used a model. This topic can be discussed in a work session.

Brachbill stated that the reason not to have a chicken ordinance is the cost to the Borough eventually. There will be complaints. There are feral cats, ducks, and coyotes at the border. They will come in if they know there is food. The Borough went through a lot of expense to get trash receptacles that stay closed and that helped keep the skunks away. There are hidden costs that he does not think manpower wise or financially the Borough can support a chicken ordinance. It is not a necessity. Permit fees, etc. were discussed. Not everyone would want chickens anyway and Brachbill argued that it would be waste the tax dollars to do it.

No roosters, mandatory chicken coops, etc. were all discussed. State College and Harris Township will be contacted. Staff agreed to gather more information. No formal action was taken.

***Request re: Bellefonte Cruise and Cruise sponsored Dubois All American Race***

This request asks for the normal road closures and related activities for approval for the car cruise which is Father's Day Weekend. They are also sponsoring the soap box derby race which takes place on Allegheny Street on Sunday, June 17.

***Request for 3-day alcohol permit for Bellefonte Cruise***

Permission to have alcohol available during the two-day cruise event. This is a new request. The cost of a three-day permit is less than a one-day permit. They are planning on having a check in and check out system. The anticipated areas of servicing were discussed briefly.

**Hombosky moved to allow the Cruise to have a 3-day alcohol permit;  
Brachbill seconded the motion;**

There will most likely be a parameter established. Serving the beer in cans was discussed. Mr. McCool was to attend the Council meeting to discuss this aspect of the permit. Stewart will be in touch with him to ascertain what the plan is. Johnson requested that he come before Council to discuss the details.

**Hombosky tabled her motion.**

**Prendergast moved to close the streets for the cruise and the race as requested;**  
**Eaton seconded the motion;**

Request for the ordinance as requested to be deleted from the request. It is up to the race personnel to arrange for policing etc.

**Motion was amended.**

**Prendergast moved to close the streets for the Cruise and the race but without the request for the Borough to enact an ordinance to declare a cruise area as stated in the request and that Cruise personnel self-police their concerns, activities and programming;**  
**Eaton seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

#### ***CATA Facility Dedication and Open House***

Invite to their open house. They are celebrating the new facility. Wednesday, May 23 10 a.m.

#### ***Central Pa Tasting Trail Event Proposal***

They would like to repeat the same event as last year on Sunday, June 17 2-7 p.m. in Talleyrand Park. They would like to expand the event a little bit. They used one part of the circle and would like to do the tasting on one part of the circle and the bands on the other part of the circle but all in all the Talleyrand Extension.

**Eaton moved to approve the proposal for the Central Pa. Tasting Trail event;**  
**Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Prendergast concurred that he attended last year, and they really did not have enough room at all. It was more successful than they expected it to be. I.D. is needed for obtaining a ticket to participate in the tastings.

**Motion carried.**

#### ***FYI – HGTV House Hunter Program***

March 13 filming will be done for the program. A couple will be buying a home in Bellefonte – it will view about 6 months from now.

#### ***Letter to T. Conklin re: Rails to Trails Proposal – Bellefonte to Milesburg portion***

The letter expresses opposition to the proposed route that will go through the Gamble Mill Parking Lot. The prospective buyers also have concerns about this route.

**ORAL:**

Mr. Ted Conklin spoke regarding his opposition of the proposed route that will cut through the Gamble Mill Parking area. He stated his concerns about the route. He spoke with Wilson a while back. Although excited about the trail, it will bring the trail through a bridge to be constructed in front of his home. It is a very difficult position for him to take. He has many friends who bike. It is a matter of protecting their backyard. He has heard the NIMBY comments, but sometimes it is necessary to protect their backyard. He stated that it isn't only his backyard but a future backyard. He is merely a caretaker of his home. He doesn't have children and the home and yard will not be passed on to another generation. It will be passed on to another family. There is a responsibility to protect the property. The proposed bridge in front of the property is unacceptable. He will do everything in his power to stop the bridge. He will fight every inch of Rails to Trails from here to Milesburg if that is what it takes. He is very adamant about the bridge not being constructed in that location.

Wilson discussed the rails to trails preliminary meeting the other night. It was to discuss a proposed route. There is certainly time for public input so that they can look at things such as the bridge, to make adjustments if possible. Conklin did have an alternate route for the path. Krauss Park is a pleasurable experience and would be preferred than going through parked cars in the lot. Wilson stated that Krauss is still a possibility. Downstream is narrow at the end and the bridge could angle across if there is enough land on the other side. Another option would change the designation of the trail as it would not be suitable for walkers. There are other options. Wilson stated that the letter will be presented to the engineers. That was the reason for the meeting and there will be another meeting in the future. Costs and other projections will need to be discussed as well. Wilson will pass the concerns along and attempt to make this trail work for everyone.

Carla Conklin discussed the Gamble Mill parking lot. The mill has been closed so long that no one really remembers the lot full. The greenspace is not green at all and is often mud. It used to be torn up with all the cars that were parked there. When the mill was in its hay day, that lot was hopping. Weddings were held there, and everyone would stop by for lunch etc. The rear lot was also discussed. Pedestrian activity is difficult in the area. She talked about lost parking areas. She stated now the area is unused, but the mill will be reopening and may be packed full again. She loves the idea of rails to trails, but thinks that the proposal to take the mill lot will create a hardship to the local residents.

Joseph Griffin, 133 North Spring Street addressed Council. He wanted to comment on two threats to Bellefonte proposed by the rails route. He asked Council to advocate for change in the current proposed plan. The route passes through the parking lot of the Mill, and goes past the William Thomas homestead and then crosses Spring Creek over a 200-foot bridge placed diagonally across the stream. He presumes it will be ten feet wide. Routing a path through a parking lot of a restaurant featuring alcohol seems a bit reckless. He suggested separation of pedestrians and vehicles. If the bridge is constructed down trail, it will also change the Thomas homestead, a Bellefonte landmark. He remarked on the Secretary of Interior's rehab regulations regarding historical buildings. He noted other trail routes between Bellefonte and Milesburg. He too mentioned Krauss Park and alternatives. He also commended Ted Conklin for saving two of the most prominent historical structures of the Borough, the Mill, and the Thomas homestead.

Wilson thanked Griffin for his discussion and reminded him that it is a County project as well and he may want to talk with the County as well. The trail plan is only in the planning stage.

Brachbill was in support of finding a better trail. Wilson stated that the parking area is owned by SEDA-COG and not the Mill and wanted the public to understand that point. SEDA-COG rents the lot to the Mill and is not an issue between the owners at the Borough. That would need to be worked out with SEDA-COG. Wilson agreed that adjustments should be made to the trail as planned. A motion was proposed to eliminate the route through the parking area. Griffin continued his story regarding the rails to trails alternatives and history of the area.

Duffey stated that his issue was that at the trail meeting, someone was taking notes regarding concerns. This is only a proposal for the trail. He offered to let the County make changes on this issue on their own before motioning to exclude and step on their toes. He offered too that the County may have already seen the issue and are attempting to address it. Stewart stated that he will write a letter to the County stating residential concerns about the trail path. If Council passes a motion that the path be eliminated for further consideration, that would be included in that letter.

**Johnson moved to have Stewart write a letter to the Centre County Planning Office to request that the Mill route with the bridge be denied and not cut through the SEDA-COG parking lot;  
Walker seconded the motion;**

Brachbill stated that he feels that the residents may worry that if it goes too far there is no going back. Tosti-Vasey also discussed this issue with Conklin. She concurred with the idea to change the route for it being unfeasible and unsafe.

**Motion carried.**

***Bellefonte Lions Club - Parking space reservation***

Location requested is near the brownstone building up at the Diamond for Saturday April 21 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. for their annual rib sale.

**Brachbill moved to approve the request  
Johnson seconded the motion;**

Hombosky stated that the parking at this event is horrendous. She almost got into an accident last year during this event. She would like to see this safer this year. Orange cones may be placed to eliminate cars from pulling in. It is supposed to be a walk-up event and not a drive thru.

**Motion was amended.**

**Duffey moved to amend the request to include working with Chief Weaver to establish a safety plan regarding parking;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;  
Motion to amend and then the motion as amended both passed.**

***Clearwater Conservancy Watershed Cleanup Day***

April 21, 2018 – a volunteer usually coordinates Bellefonte’s contribution to this clean-up effort. Volunteers are needed.

Brachbill asked if this was the same date as the cleanup of Krauss Park. Johnson said no and then suggested reconsidering the volunteer day of April 7 to accommodate the Penn State student volunteers at Krauss Park. He did not think that they would interfere with opening day of fishing. He offered that the manpower would be good if the PSU students were able to come in. Hombosky stated that the scope of the clean up is to include trimming back trees, and cleaning up brush and leaves. A walk thru was done last year. The PSU students may be able to come on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. They will also be doing some work in Talleyrand and Governor’s Park.

**Hombosky moved to reconsider changing the Krauss Park clean-up from April 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>;**  
**Duffey seconded the motion;**  
**Motion to reconsider carried**

**Hombosky moved to change the clean up date at Krauss to April 8, 2018;**  
**Johnson seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

### ***HBI Events***

*They are requesting permission to use Talleyrand Park. This can be placed in the next packet.*

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Centre Area Cable Consortium (CACC) Meeting February 28, 2018 – Public hearing held regarding the contract under negotiation. Information is on the website. Written and oral comments are being taken through March 12 and can be sent to [manager@harristownship.org](mailto:manager@harristownship.org) or mailed to Amy Farkas, Harris Township, 224 E. Main Street, Boalsburg PA 16827. March meeting is cancelled, and the next meeting will be April 9.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission Meeting – Meeting was held on February 20 here in Council chambers. Arrangements have been made with the environmental law group at PSU for a forum usage within the watershed.

Bellefonte Police Pension Board Meeting February 27, 2018 – Wilson, Stewart, and Tosti-Vasey along with reps of the police unit attended the meeting to review the pension plan. The investments are doing well.

Milesburg-Bellefonte Trail Study Meeting – February 22, 2018

### **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Wilson stated that they are interviewing three candidates for part time police officer on Wednesday, March 7.

Arts and Crafts Festival will take place on August 10 and 11. Co-Chairs are Steve and Denise Snook. Volunteers are needed. It will be moved to the center of town due to work being done at Talleyrand. Volunteers can call the Borough office and names will be taken for the Snooks.

First Sunday event went well and the exhibit at the museum is nice, per Hombosky. Wilson was there handing out coupons. Twenty businesses participated. Wilson commended Bellekey for their efforts to generate down town commerce.

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items  
ZONING/PLANNING:**

**Rodgers Stadium**

Stewart reported that Planning Commission (PC) met regarding the plans for Rodgers Stadium. It is moving through the process. They did approve the plan with conditions. The conditions are relatively minor. Comments from the County are incorporated.

There were two zoning amendments which were addressed - height of the light poles and the setbacks for accessory buildings regarding athletic buildings. PC did settle on the language, but the language is not in the packet as they will need to be reviewed by Shannon Wright. Council can theoretically approve the plan with conditions. The amended language needs to be sent to the other cooperative municipalities in the region for their comments. Representatives were in the audience from the school district if there are any questions. They want to go to bid and begin construction to keep on schedule. The NPDES permitting has already been addressed. The timeline is tight regarding football season this fall. Stewart stated that no one would sign off on the plan until conditions were incorporated and addressed.

**Brachbill moved to conditionally approve the Rodgers Stadium plan on the conditions that the County comments be addressed, the stormwater water engineer comments be addressed, and the zoning amendments be approved; Prendergast seconded the motion; Motion carried.**

PC also reviewed the tattoo establishment. That came with a proposed amendment. This will be at the next meeting packet for review.

Centre Crest rezoning was not addressed due to time constraints.

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes February 26,2018 DRAFT

Letter from Centre County Planning re: Rodgers Stadium Renovations/Rehabilitation

**HARB:**

Certificates of Appropriateness: 105 S. Allegheny Street - railing

**Brachbill moved to approve the project as recommended by HARB; Prendergast seconded the motion; Motion carried.**



HARB Meeting Minutes February 27, 2018 DRAFT

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** – Point Person, Anne Walker

**Walker moved to accept the bid from John Nastase Construction in the amount of \$388,430.00 using \$225,000 as approved in the 2018 budget and up to \$175,000 from the Parking Fund for parking lots A and H. Duffey seconded the motion;**

The walkway discussed during the work session was asked to be addressed.

**Motion carried.**

**FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE** - Point Person, Evan Duffey

Nothing to report. Budget planning was discussed.

**PARKS AND RECREATION** – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

**Signage for Discouraging Duck Feeding**

Holderman stated that the USDA reviewed the sign and likes the verbiage except the part of the sign that states the “likes” as it may create an environment for garbage and rodents. Prendergast thought the alternative area of the sign was a good idea to encourage more people to bring the right foods for the ducks. Hombosky agreed with Prendergast. USDA experienced that where the verbiage was included there were issues.

Johnson stated that it was recommended that the ducks are NOT fed. (talking amongst Council members). Hombosky wishes the public to be educated on what you can feed the ducks. It doesn't matter that they were told NOT to feed the ducks, people will do it anyway.

Johnson agrees with the USDA regarding littering up the park and rodents. Tosti-Vasey agreed with Hombosky. Unless fines are issued, people will continue to feed the ducks. The public needs to be educated on alternatives. Duffey inquired about a dispenser which may generate some income to provide an acceptable food for the ducks. There is a feeder by the bridge on High Street.

**Hombosky moved to have a duck feeding sign to include “We like birdseed; this duck food is also available at the provided vending machine at the bridge;”  
Duffey seconded the motion;  
Motion carried (with Johnson and Brachbill voting nay).**

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – Point Person, Renee Brown

Stewart reminded the public of ABC vacancies. Zoning Hearing Board is short one members; and an alternate is open as well. Bellefonte Borough Housing Appeals Board has a vacancy and the Civil Service Commission may have up to three alternate positions open.

**SAFETY** – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

Nothing to report.

**WATER/SANITATION** – Point Person, Doug Johnson

Nothing to report.

**STREETS** – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Council packets contained a listing of completed projects 2017.

The Columbia Gas issue at Thomas Street was addressed, and Columbia is returning to finish up the site when the weather improves.

Stewart discussed the PennDOT issues at High and Water Streets and at High and Spring Streets. PennDOT wishes for specific comments so they know exactly how to address them. Johnson mentioned the left turn arrow on green needs to be extended and coordinated with the light at Spring and High. He can take a video of it and present it. Stewart will put this in writing to start with and if PennDOT has any questions they can come to the meeting.

Johnson mentioned a roundabout feasibility study for the diamond area as that seems to be the trend. Although they are PennDOT owned roads, the Borough would have to fund the study, most likely.

Downtown street light globes will be cleaned beginning March 5.

New Street name signs - Project nearing completion. Stewart explained that the signs were badly faded, and they were being switched out. Brown with white lettering is used in the historic district and black with white lettering is used in the remaining parts of the Borough.

Tosti-Vasey suggested prioritizing street projects with PennDOT based on safety. She mentioned the underlayment and wall issue on Route 550 next to Talleyrand Park as being one of greater concern. Johnson agreed and will mention this at the next MPO meeting.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

Penn State Sustainability Report Update – dispensing water to the public from the Big Spring and possibly creating a small bottling plant along the Creek is being investigated by a group of environmental students at Penn State University.

Air Pollution Ordinance will be updated at some point.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Background Information re: Opioid class action litigation. This was provided by the law firm from Williamsport. There is a PowerPoint handout and a fee agreement provided. Centre County

does not know of any similar program in the County. Tosti-Vasey explained the class action suit process to Council members as she experienced one.

There was no action taken regarding this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Tosti-Vasey spoke with Cindy Hahn, C-NET regarding taping work sessions. She is willing to tape them without any additional cost. Council members are okay with taping of all work sessions as they are public information. C-Net will now tape all future work sessions, per Council agreement.

The prior discussed PSAB delegate issue was discussed briefly.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before Council,

**Brachbill moved to adjourn the meeting;**  
**Prendergast seconded the motion.**  
**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.