



BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING

BOROUGH HALL – 22 READING BLVD.

WYOMISSING, PA 19610-2083

TELEPHONE (610) 376-7481 FAX (610) 376-8470

www.wyomissingboro.org



Statement of Borough Council Regarding the Stone House Park Project – Issued January 10, 2024

It has come to the Borough's attention through attendance at public meetings and anonymous flyers that were distributed throughout the community that certain information is being circulated by private citizens to residents about to the scope and intent of the Borough's Stone House Park project. Some of this information is misleading and deceptive, and fails to provide an accurate understanding of the overall project.

The Borough previously posted information on its website on December 1, 2023, providing an explanation of the project and a viewable site plan showing the majority of proposed improvements, including a twelve space parking lot. The information previously posted on the Borough website continues to be accurate.

Specifically, the privately distributed flyers include photographs depicting a parking lot with what appears to be a large retaining wall around it. The flyer states resident input was not sought, that the parking lot will impact family traditions and gatherings, and makes no mention of the broader scope of the overall project, outside of the parking lot.

Borough Council feels it is appropriate to make a public statement and provide a factual, detailed timeline of all Borough actions that led to the project being approved.

Architerra PC was contracted by the Borough in early 2020 to perform a master plan study of the Stone House Park. The study was completed in January 2021 and analyzed the overall condition of the park, including walkways, vegetation and the Wyomissing Creek. Multiple areas of concern related to the condition of walking paths, guard rails, boardwalks, streambank erosion and the lack of ADA compliance were noted. The study provided recommendations for repairs and improvements that could be made to address these concerns.

For safety and liability purposes, mainly due to the heavy pedestrian traffic in and around the Stone House Park, the Borough project prioritized the repair of walkways, bridges, boardwalks, guard rails and ADA access. The study and its recommendations were discussed in 2021, 2022 and 2023 at meetings of the Borough's Park and Shade Tree Commission, Planning Commission, Recreation Board, Infrastructure Committee and Borough Council.

The majority of the Stone House Park project is focused on the repair and replacement of existing walking paths, bridges, boardwalks, and remediating streambank erosion. The project also includes the construction of a parking lot to be located in the existing grass area between the Stone House and Parkside Drive North. The parking lot will provide twelve parking spaces, three of which will be ADA accessible. When park and recreation facilities are built or altered, as is being done in this case, state and federal law require the facilities to comply with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, which include a requirement for accessible parking spaces.

The location of the parking lot was primarily determined by the ADA requirement that accessible parking be located within seventy-five feet of the building it serves. Due to the topography around the Stone



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House, the options were limited. The Borough was mindful to allow areas around the Stone House to remain for sledding and lawn seating for concerts in the park, while making the parking lot as inconspicuous as possible. Sledding and lawn seat for concerts will still be available at the Stone House Park after the project is completed. Also, landscaping will be provided around the perimeter of the parking lot to buffer the view from Parkside Drive North.

The cost estimate for the Stone House Park project is approximately \$590,000. Through the DCED Local Share Account grant program, the Borough secured grant funding in the amount of \$460,000 towards the Stone House Park improvements. This large capital investment in the Stone House Park will allow it to continue to be safely used and inclusive for all.

The Borough Council places great value on the public park resources of the Borough. The Stone House Park project, when it is completed, will enhance the experience of the park for all visitors, and will add substantial value to our already great park facilities.