

Schedler Park Property Phase I Grant Request

On August 12, the Council adopted a comprehensive resolution that effectively embraced the Open Space Committee's 2012 recommendations – supporting the development of a park for passive and active recreation ... including a playground, a walking path and baseball and multi-purpose fields ... and providing a road map for the stabilization and possible restoration of the Schedler house.

Bergen County Grant Process

Applications for the Bergen County Open Space Grant (Municipal Park Improvement Program) and Bergen County Historic Trust Fund Grant were due by September 3, 2015.

- On September 2, the VOR submitted an application for a \$100,000 matching grant for Schedler Park Property Phase I. As this is a 50-50% grant, the total project costs are estimated at \$200,000.
 - The VOR application included the 5-page Schedler resolution adopted by the Council on August 12.
 - In its review of the Schedler Park Property application, the County may require additional information.
 - Per past practice, the County said that it would take additional supporting documents at a later date, but prior to the meeting of their grant review panel.

- On September 3, the "Friends of the Historic Zabriskie- Schedler House" group submitted an application for a \$22,500 matching grant for the Schedler house. As this is a 25-75% grant, the total project costs are estimated at \$90,000 with "Friends" providing \$22,500 of the funding.
 - The "Friends" application included the 5-page Schedler resolution adopted by the Council on August 12.
 - In its review of the Schedler house application, the County may require additional information. For example, we do know that the organization is required to obtain their 501c3 status and a lease for the house between the group and the Village is an added County requirement. (The 501c3 status enables the organization to benefit from a 25-75% matching grant rather than 50-50%.)
 - Per past practice, the County said that it would take additional supporting documents at a later date, but prior to the meeting of their grant review panel.

On September 9, the Council adopted an additional resolution endorsing the submission of the Schedler Park Property Phase I grant application, which was forwarded to the County on September 11.

- No such resolution has been adopted yet for the Schedler house application.

In accordance with grant requirements, a public hearing will be held on October 14 to present the details of the Schedler Park Property Phase I grant and to provide an opportunity for public comment.

All such County grant applications – including the Schedler Park and Schedler house applications -- go through a review process that will result in a decision in/around spring 2016.

For the Schedler Park Grant Application

If the grant is approved by the County, further Council action will be required:

- For the VOR to accept the grant, it has to enter into a project contract with the County and adopt another resolution “to accept the contract and the grant and to commit to the funding match”.
- If the resolution is adopted by the Council, it needs to be approved by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- Successful grant applicants have 2 years from the approval of the Board of Chosen Freeholders to use the funds.

Acceptance of an awarded grant is not mandatory; a grant application can be withdrawn at any point, and even if approved, it can be turned down.

The Schedler Park Property Phase I Grant Request -- Substance

This grant application addresses preliminary work that needs to be done for any passive and active recreational purposes and is largely independent of finalizing the layout and plans for the property.

The work under the grant addresses: removal of the garage, removal of the shed, capping off of a well, removing down/dead/diseased trees, stump removal, and utility stub-outs/driveway entrance.

- The work described above has not yet been scheduled.
- Before bidding out the work involved with Phase I, another resolution will be presented to the Council (October-November timeframe) for its consideration.

The Schedler Park Property Phase I Grant Request – Funding

The endorsement resolution adopted on September 9 indicates that the Village has or will secure funding necessary to complete the project or modify the project as necessary.

- As previously indicated, a resolution would need to be adopted next year to definitively commit the monies to fund the grant.

There is a commitment from the RBSA to donate \$100,000 up front for this grant, and the group is fundraising for an additional \$100,000, thus to provide all monies needed to get the matching grant.

- This gift will go through the normal gifting protocol process: A resolution accepting the \$100,000 gift from the RBSA will be prepared for an upcoming Council work session.

A similar commitment – for \$45,000 -- has been made by the “Friends of the Historic Zabriskie- Schedler House” group for stabilization of the house. (Please note that only \$22,500 is required for the grant match.)

- If this commitment is needed and forthcoming, it, too, will go through our normal gifting protocol process.

During the capital budget process for 2016, the development of Schedler Park will be discussed. Determination will then be made as to the process, sequencing of development activities, timeframes and level of capital expenditure that the Council wants to make in 2016 and subsequent years.

Additional Key Points

- Our current plan is to present an updated layout of the Schedler property to the Council and the public in October for discussion and subsequent adoption.
- Traffic and noise studies will continue.
- The VOR submitted the Schedler Park grant application, but relied on a private organization – “Friends of the Historic Zabriskie- Schedler House” – to submit the Schedler house application.
 - The reason for this is simple: the Council has approved the Open Space Committee’s recommendations to develop Schedler Park with active and passive recreation, but has not taken a decision concerning the final status of the Schedler house.
 - The Council has, however, provided a 12-month road map for stabilization and possible restoration of the Schedler house.
- Village resources have been utilized for both grant applications.
 - For the Schedler Park application, Village resources were used to coordinate, write and submit the application.
 - For the Schedler house application – last year and this year -- Village work consisted of consulting and reviewing on the application, some minor legal review, fire review and engineering support. Further, on an ongoing basis, our engineers have and continue to check on the House.