

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024
6:15 PM (Approximately)**

Chairperson: Gilda Kramer
Vice Chairperson: Maggie Harper Epstein, Sean Whalen

AGENDA

1. **RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR A GREENWAYS, TRAILS AND RECREATION GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS ALONG RIGHTERS FERRY ROAD**



AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

ITEM: RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR A GREENWAYS, TRAILS AND RECREATION GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS ALONG RIGHTERS FERRY ROAD

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners adoption of a resolution authorizing submission of a grant application in the amount of \$250,000 to the PA DCED for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant to partially fund trail improvements along Righters Ferry Road including authorization of matching funds of 15% of the grant amount (\$37,500).

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Briefing	Issue Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	Resolution

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building & Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant - Righters Ferry Road Trail Improvements

Prepared By: Charlie Doyle, Assistant Director of Building & Planning

Date: July 2, 2024

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Township to submit a grant application in the amount of \$250,000 to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant to partially fund trail improvements along Righters Ferry Road including authorization of matching funds of 15% of the grant amount (\$37,500).

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

A resolution by the Board of Commissioners is a requirement to complete submission of the grant application

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

The Board of Commissioners has approved the submission of grant applications to the PA DCED for funding of various projects through numerous programs over recent years.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The 2024 Capital Improvement Program for the Township of Lower Merion includes Service to People Project No. 4499, Cynwyd Heritage Trail – Phase II that allocates funding for the lower trail along Righters Ferry Road from Pencoyd Landing to Monument Road. Currently, the Township Engineer has produced civil engineering plans and a cost estimate for the project of \$1,101,237.

The approximate 2-mile Cynwyd Heritage Trail is a regionally significant multimodal pathway linking access to historic landmarks such as West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Westminster Cemetery, and SEPTA’s Cynwyd Station as well as the remnants of the former Barmouth Station. Additionally, the trail connects to the Manayunk Bridge Trail, which crosses the Schuylkill River and provides a connection to the popular Schuylkill River Trail.

In pursuit of funds to subsidize construction of the future project, Township staff identified the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant to partially fund trail improvements along Righters Ferry Road at the maximum amount limited at \$250,000, with project costs that exceed the minimum 15% match requirements for the total grant being sought from the Commonwealth.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The application for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant is \$100. A maximum award of \$250,000 would reduce potential Township contributions for project construction costs beyond the 15% funding match required, totaling \$37,500, at the maximum grant award.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution approving application for the grant and authorizing the required matching funds of 15% of the grant amount (\$37,500).

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A GREENWAYS, TRAILS AND RECREATION GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS ALONG RIGHTERS FERRY ROAD

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania “the Commonwealth” passed Act 13 of 2012 that establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates such funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (the “PA DCED”) has established a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program to distribute Marcellus Legacy Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lower Merion is an eligible applicant as a municipality for a grant that shall not exceed a total of \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for development, rehabilitation and improvements include greenways and trails; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Capital Improvement Program for the Township of Lower Merion includes Service to People Project No. 4499, Cynwyd Heritage Trail – Phase II that allocates funding for the lower trail along Righters Ferry Road from Pencoyd Landing to Monument Road; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to apply to the PA DCED through its Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program for implementation grant funds of \$250,000 to construct a lower trail along Righters Ferry Road from Pencoyd Landing to Monument Road for the project estimated by the Township Engineer for the cost of \$1,101,237 with a match that exceeds the minimum 15% match requirements for the total grant being sought from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Township fully understands the application requirements, including the contracting process if awarded grant funds from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion hereby authorizes the Township Manager to submit an application to the PA

DCED requesting a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Agency to be used for the construction of a lower trail addition to the Cynwyd Heritage Trail along Righters Ferry Road from Pencoyd Landing to Monument Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township hereby designates Ernie B. McNeely, Township Manager, and Christopher Leswing, Director of Building and Planning, to execute all documents and agreements between the Township of Lower Merion and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 2024 by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

BY: _____
Todd M. Sinai, President

ATTEST:

Jody L. Kelley, Secretary

