

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

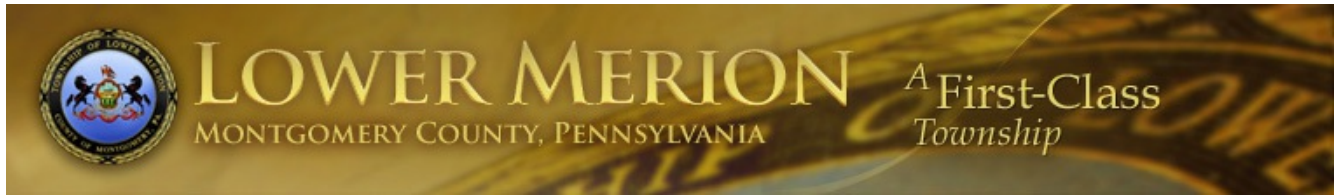
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025
6:20 PM (Approximately)**

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

AGENDA

1. **RESOLUTION - INDICATING THE NEW GRANT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND REAUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE PARKSIDE-CYNWYD EXTENSION OF THE CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL PROJECT**



AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

ITEM: RESOLUTION - INDICATING THE NEW GRANT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND REAUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE PARKSIDE-CYNWYD EXTENSION OF THE CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL PROJECT

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners adopting a resolution indicating the new grant identification number and reauthorizing the Township Manager to execute all documents and agreements, including reimbursement agreements, between the Township of Lower Merion and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) related to the Parkside-Cynwyd Extension of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Brief - DVRPC Resolution 2025	Issue Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	Resolution

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Parks & Recreation Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Parkside-Cynwyd Extension of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail

Prepared By: Donna Heller, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: June 6, 2025

- I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Adopt a resolution indicating the new grant identification number and reauthorizing the Township Manager to execute all documents and agreements, including reimbursement agreements, between the Township of Lower Merion and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) related to the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Reimbursement Grant Agreement number R22060003-4 for the Parkside-Cynwyd Extension of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.
- II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** DVRPC requires a resolution passed by the Township designating authority to sign the new agreement.
- III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** N/A
- IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** The Parkside-Cynwyd trail is an extension of the existing Cynwyd Heritage Trail. This new paved trail segment, which is currently under construction, runs alongside the active Cynwyd Line of SEPTA's regional rail, between Cynwyd Station and Bala Station, a distance of approximately 0.5 miles. The Cynwyd Heritage Trail is a major regional trail spine that connects Lower Merion with Manayunk and the Wissahickon Transportation Center and a future Trail connection which is planned to extend further into Overbrook and central Philadelphia from the Bala Station.

The history of this grant agreement and required resolutions is as follows:

- The Board passed a Resolution in March of 2022 for the original PennDOT Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant amount of \$533,997 under agreement number R22060003 and authorized up to \$250,000 in matching funds to be allocated from Recreation Development Fees.
- The Township was awarded an additional TAP grant in 2022 in the amount of \$521,343 for a total grant amount of \$1,055,340 under agreement number R22060003-01 to cover inflationary cost estimate.

- Following the “Railroad Certification Compliance Agreement” (RCC) with SEPTA additional funds were need, based on the final cost estimate and an additional \$292,687 TAP grant was awarded in 2023 for a total grant amount of \$1,348,027 under agreement number R22060003-02.
- PennDOT advertised the bid package in February 2024. Two bids were received and reviewed by PennDOT. Richard E. Pierson Construction Co., Inc., was the low bidder in the amount of \$2,089,696. This created a shortfall of \$491,669. An additional TAP grant award will cover this shortfall for a total grant amount of \$1,839,696 under the new agreement number R22060003-03.

The additional expenses are coming in the form of time extensions due to the delays caused by the SEPTA ROE permit process and their approval of the site-specific work plan (SSWP) as well as the unforeseen need to fully remove the abandoned steel rail and ties within the project limits, which were discovered during the clearing and grubbing of the site.

- This created a shortfall of \$410,300. This additional TAP grant award will cover this shortfall which also included the majority of the Townships \$250,000 in matching funds, for a total grant amount of \$2,249,996 under the new agreement number R22060003-04 to fully fund the project.

The project is underway with a projected completion date of October 23, 2025.

V. Impact On Township Finances: The commitment of up to \$250,000 funded through Recreation Development Fees demonstrated the Township’s commitment to the project and that remains the maximum Township financial obligation to the project. At this point these funds are not expected to be expended, due to the available grant funds.

VI. Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends adoption of the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. _____