

BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
Technology Advisory Committee

Minutes

August 5, 2021

7:00 PM

The meeting was held in person at the Borough Building and by Zoom.

Roll Call

Nate Dufresne

Matt Garland (Chair)

Annie Graziani

Cathy Poole (Vice Chair)

Andy Nock

John Park

Luke Myslinski

Thomas Stein, MD

Chief Bill Chicots

Old Business

Minutes of the June 3 meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business

Communication Tower

Andy Nock and Chief Chicots reviewed the current state of radio communication for emergency responders in Franklin Park. At present the police, fire and public works departments are unable to communicate by radio across departments. Each department has their own radios for communication; to communicate cross-department, they must use the County 911 Center or cell phones. The County has allocated T band radio bandwidth for Franklin Park. In order to implement a unified radio service, the borough will need to place radio repeaters at strategic locations in "line of sight" (in other words, repeaters hosted higher in the air e.g., on a tower will be most effective in transferring radio signal). The area of Clover Hill Golf Course is a desirable location to cover the northernmost areas of the borough.

The committee discussed the public safety concerns given the current situation with radios. At this point, the most reasonable solution appears to be erection of a communication tower on the Clover Hill Golf Course. The committee agreed to pursue this option with the primary and urgent purpose of placing radio repeaters.

At 7:30 pm, David Farquhar from SBA Communications Corporation joined the meeting. SBA owns the communication tower in Linbrook Park and was part of the proposal submitted in 2017 to place a tower at Clover Hill Golf Course. SBA is willing to work with the TAC to submit a new proposal to Borough Council for a communication tower located at Clover Hill Golf Course. Key points from the discussion:

- SBA will bear all costs to build the tower. There will be no expense to the Borough
- SBA will lease the land (likely 100x100 feet) from the Borough
- There will be no cost to the Borough to place a radio repeater on the tower
- SBA will lease space to the cellular providers on the tower for their equipment

The committee discussed the approach to informing the community about this potential project. Key points from the discussion:

- Talking points will be developed so that all parties from the borough are disseminating the same information
- The TAC would like to have an informational community meeting before a proposal comes before the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board or Council

SBA will be providing additional information as follows:

- Photo simulations of the proposed site on the golf course
- Photo of stealth monopole
- Notes from previous community meetings
- Information from the carriers on how they handle generator power

The committee agreed that the September 5, 2021 meeting will be a work session with SBA to review additional information, develop talking points and plan for a community information session.

Social Media Presentation to Borough Work Session

The borough will continue to look at options to support social media. They will plan to include personnel in the 2022 budget.

Good and Welfare

None

The next meeting is September 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the Franklin Park Borough Building. A Zoom meeting will also be available.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Poole
Vice Chair