

Neighborhood Association Town Hall

Virtual Meeting

Friday, May 29th, 2020

Attendance

Douglas Shontz, Tom King, Tom Fountaine, Natalie Vercillo, Kayla Irvin, Brian O'Donnell, David Jordon, John Gardner, Mayor Filippelli Roger Dunlap, Kevin Kassab

Carrie Jackson, Donna Queeney, Eric White, Mark Huncik, Mark Johnson, Steve Mower, Susan Rogacs, Thomas Daubert

Message from Mayor

- Thank you for being patient. We still have a long way to go as we start the green phase

Responses to the PSU for Action Survey

- Response rate as of 5/29/20: 2,206 participants
- 941 of those participates volunteered to receive information for a follow up
- Location Data not available until later in survey process

Business Survey

- Response as of 5/29/20: 26 participants
- Extended survey date to Sunday, June 7th, 2020

Borough Council Meeting

- The next Council meeting will be virtual and held on Monday June 1st 7pm
- Council is back to a regular 2 meetings a month schedule and will remain virtual until further notice

Memorial Field/ South Track Field construction

- Construction project continues in the Greentree neighborhood
- Construction is on track to have field open and available for first football game
 - External delays could affect that decision
- Continue review of construction project, might modify agreement
 - Conversations to modify will include borough, school district, and Greentree residents adjacent to the south tract

Changes in the green phase

- All businesses may conduct in person business operations, but must comply with COVID-19 requirements
 - Continue teleworking where possible
 - Stagger employees appropriately

- Enforce Social Distancing
 - Businesses can decide whether they require masks for customers or not (unless a restaurant/bar)
- Restaurants/bars are authorized to conduct in person operations
- Indoor/Outdoor dining allowed with specifications
- Personal care services may resume
 - Gyms, Spas, Hair salons, Tattoo Parlors
 - Appointment/ reservations only
- Social gatherings with 250+ individuals are PROHIBITED
- Visitation to prisons and hospitals may resume
 - Limit visitation in these places if appropriate
 - i.e. if there was a COVID outbreak
- A reminder we serve other townships besides borough for restaurant inspections
 - Three employees are responsible for 450 food facilities
- A few extra regulations for bars
 - 50% capacity allowed
 - Must arrange seating/tables for 6 ft of distancing
 - Could mean they reach less than half capacity
 - Physical bar seating only 4 people in each group allowed
 - Group next to them needs to be 6ft apart or a barrier must be present
 - No standing room permitted
- Restaurants AND Bars Regulations
 - Must follow PA department health business safety
 - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Businesses.aspx>
 - Customers are required to wear masks when entering, exiting, and traversing through establishment
 - Mask not required when stationed inside restaurant/bar with group
 - Outdoor patio must have 6ft distance as well
 - 50% capacity includes outdoor and indoor seating
 - Designated from Fire Code
- Suggestions from PA department of health (not enforced)
 - Business should have a written work cite plan to deal with COVID-19
 - Cite plan should address employees and customers
 - Clearly mark tables and chairs to promote 6ft distance
 - No more than 10 in a group table unless they are family
 - Single use menus and/or chalkboard menu
 - Technology to alert customers of reservation instead of using coaster buzzers
 - If using coaster buzzers, suggestion is to sanitize after every use
- Pools and playground
 - Expecting more information next week
 - Governor's priority was reopening business for the start of the green phase
- Pavilion reservations will be resume June 2nd

Parking

- As of now the borough is only enforcing overnight parking
 - Do not want to enforce parking too much when businesses are just starting to open up
 - Borough will continue to monitor on a regular basis

Closing Remarks

- Poll : “We would like your input on whether to continue these virtual meetings for the next couple of months and if so, how often. Please vote for you preference from the following options:”
 - 1 vote for weekly, 7 for every other week
- Next meeting: Friday, June 19th at 3 PM

Q&A

Q: Is more staff needed to enforce bar/restaurant mandates? Several opened at 12:01 am last night. Do patrons have to wear masks while standing in line on the sidewalk to go inside the restaurant?

A: With Reduce capacity restrictions bars/restaurants will probably not increase staff. Patrons standing in line outside are not obligated to wear masks. Social distancing is required when patrons are on business property. Please note the PLCB also has jurisdiction for businesses who hold a liquor license.

Clarification Q: Does the Borough need more staff to enforce regulations?

A: Borough does not plan to add staff to enforce COVID-19 regulations.

Q: While we are hearing a lot about PSU’s on-campus plans for Fall Semester (return of students for in-person class instruction, purchase of masks, testing and tracking, etc.), we would like more information on what the Borough’s plan is for the return of students and activities to Off-Campus locations.

A: We are still working with PSU and internal groups. Things continue to change. We are sorting out what the State and CDC require. We are addressing what we need to do to prepare for the fall regardless of PSU’s decision. Borough officials continue to meet with property owners to address housing questions for Off-Campus students. Roughly, 70-80 % of PSU students live off campus. At this time, we wish we had more information, but we will continue to adjust plans where necessary.

Q: PSU’s potential return to campus report is frightening! Clearly students don’t feel a lot of social responsibility to abide by protocols. I realize that we don’t have tools to legal enforce compliance, but can we do anything?

A: Communication message needs to be delivered to students appropriately. PSU is using student leaders, athletes, well respected professors to push out safety messages to students. The Return to

Campus Survey is helpful to collect attitudes and opinions of students. Please continue to report if refuse in yard/littering, criminal mischief, individuals acting disorderly, noise complaints, gatherings of over 250, etc.

Q: PSU held a “community” webinar yesterday. Coalition members were not invited. Were any Borough staff involved and what was the presented/discussed?

A: Tom King, Tom Fountaine, and Mayor Phillipelli were involved. Some coalition members were involved (Donna Queeney shared notes). We are unaware on how invite list was decided. President Barron talked about the decision-making process and the different factors impacting the final decision. “Students Return to Campus” survey was discussed. Discussed athletics - NCAA, BIG10 conference and PSU decide together the future of football season. PSU is considering using second summer semester as a “pilot” for the Fall semester. It was stated that the fall semester will absolutely start August 24th whether it will be in-person or virtually is expected to be decided by June 15th

Q: What else opens under GREEN? Is more parking enforcement Borough-wide going to start? Can STRs operate again?

A: Nursing homes remain restricted. Mt Nittany Hospitals has decided to not allow visitors yet (as of 5/29/20). Everything else is permitted to open. Borough will continue to monitor parking on a regular basis to decide when we need to do more parking enforcement Borough-wide.