

NPDC/Skillman Village Clean-up & Redevelopment Update

Township clean-up efforts are moving forward in a very careful, deliberate manner on this 256 acre property in the center of western Montgomery. At the same time, redevelopment planners are seeking input from the Montgomery public (see sub-heading below).

Township officials so far have conducted eight forums plus a joint meeting with the Board of Ed to inform the public and get their feedback on the clean-up project. The NPDC Health & Safety Community Advisory Board has been meeting regularly on alternate Thursdays; the public is welcome. The advisory board includes representatives from stakeholder groups such as Board of Ed, Board of Health, Environmental Commission, VES, OHES, MTEA, PTA, nearby neighborhoods and citizens-at-large. This adhoc committee provides comment on health and safety planning and procedures to the Township Committee and its consultants before and during all environmental clean-up work and serves as an on-going communication link to these key stakeholders around the NPDC/Skillman Village property.

The remediation firm of Weston Solutions Inc. will conduct all site remediation work for Montgomery Township except for building abatement and demolition which will be performed by a separate contractor. Additionally, environmental consultant J.M. Sorge Inc. is overseeing all work on the township's behalf, providing an extra layer of quality control and assurance.

Weston Solutions Inc. set-up their air monitor systems and a weather station and began collecting baseline data the week of March 12th. Removal of the steam pipes, which contain an asbestos wrapping, is the first order of business. Removal of above-ground pipes furthest from the Village Elementary School began March 19th. The above-ground steam pipeline closest to school which crosses Main Blvd. is being removed the first week in April when school is closed. Other pipe removal work near the school will wait until summer.

The Township Committee announced in February that **all building demolition and associated asbestos abatement work will be performed when the Village School is not in session** with a completion date of Sept. 2nd. The demolition contract is currently being bid with a contractor response date of April 13th. Once a contractor is selected demolition preparations, including health and safety plan review, will proceed.

The Township website contains answers to many frequently asked questions about the project at www.montgomery.nj.us/about/npdcfaq.asp or call us at 908-359-8211.

Skillman Village Redevelopment Plans

The Township has planned a variety of ways for the public to be engaged in planning for the future of Skillman Village. A blue *Skillman Village 2020* survey is inserted in this newsletter. Please take a moment to complete and return it by mail or at our drop boxes at the municipal building or Otto Kaufman Community Center. We want to collect the

thoughts and opinions of residents and business owners in Montgomery on what should be the top priorities for redevelopment of Skillman Village.

We also encourage you to come and share your vision and ideas at one of the ***Skillman Village 2020* community meetings** planned over the next several months. The Township is kicking off this process with a series of small, informal “Listening Sessions” for adjoining neighborhoods, volunteer committees, and other interested groups designed to involve those who have expressed an interest in planning for the site and/or directly affected by the redevelopment.

The Township will hold several “informational forums” for the entire community, including one on **Wed., May 16 between 8-10 pm** to discuss the economic planning aspect of the redevelopment plan and another one to be scheduled in May or June to discuss the current vision, the previous work of the Concept Planning Team and the concept plan that presently exists in the Master Plan. Please check back for future meeting dates on the Township website at www.montgomery.nj.us/about/npdcmeetings.asp. The existing concept plan will come into sharper focus with additional community input and traffic, economic and fiscal impact analysis, but the redevelopment plan will stay rooted in the guiding principles and community values that have been established. Additional opportunities for community participation include an all-day Saturday design charrette to be held this spring followed by an open house where the community can review and comment on a draft redevelopment plan for the site. Following that, the Planning Board will review the plan and make a recommendation to the Township Committee as to whether the redevelopment plan conforms with the Master Plan. The Township Committee will then adopt the plan at a public hearing which is expected to take place in early fall. We hope you will join us in this planning effort so that Montgomery will become an even greater place to live, work, learn and play.