

## Liberty Park Presentation

On the evening of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Borough Council hosted a meeting in the gymnasium to have Landscape Architect Carter van Dyke give a presentation with respect to Liberty Park.

The format was straight forward. In a power point presentation, Mr. van Dyke outlined some of the issues that the park presently has without suggesting how they might be remedied. Some of the items mentioned were working with the constraints imposed by the NJDEP, lack of cohesiveness in layout and planning, poor lighting, poor water quality, and several others.

He introduced Dr. Stephen Sousa of Princeton Hydro who will be the water expert engaged to clean the water. Dr. Sousa has worked with the borough before and is a recognized expert in the field of pond maintenance and water quality.

The presentation was then opened to the audience of about 40 people and each was asked to name something about the park that concerned them. After everyone had a chance to comment, the format was changed and each person was asked to name something that they wish to be considered or included in a park renovation. All of these comments were written on large sheets of paper.

Then, Mr. van Dyke gave three blue and three red stickers to each attendee with the instruction to attach a sticker to the area of concern or what they would want to see in a renewed park. Members of the audience went to the wall where the large sheets of paper were hung and stickers were attached.

At the end of that exercise it was easy to see both what bothered people about existing conditions and what they would like to see happen in a remake of the park. This was a remarkable exercise by Mr. van Dyke in that it was very visual and easy to see what people are thinking.

Frankly, I was disappointed that only 40 residents showed up, but everyone was interested and very engaged. Those large sheets of paper are now hanging in the gym and available for viewing and future comment.

Mr. van Dyke will schedule another such meeting about two months hence to solicit more input and engage the public again. In the meantime, email your concerns/comments to me, any councilperson or our Administrator, Chris Tietjen and we'll see that they get to Mr. van Dyke.

Please pay attention to this website, Nextdoor, and the Bernardsville News for more information and get involved. Who knows? It could be another 100 years before the opportunity presents itself again.

Best, Bill