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Tuesday, January 09, 2007

Public meeting to be held to discuss Point Marion park

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POINT MARION - A public meeting to discuss future plans for the Point Marion Community Park will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the back room of the American Legion Hall off Railroad Street.

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit ideas and comments about possible park improvements and upgrades from the public so Friends of the Point Marion Park can continue with possible funding avenues.

Mary K. Murphy, chairman of Friends of the Park board, said it is very important that members of the community attend the town meeting to express their ideas and suggestions.

Before the borough can apply for grant funding from the Department on Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), community priorities must be well established, she said.

"Whether you are a young parent who would like to see more children's swings or a teenager/young adult interested in playing baseball, soccer or basketball, or a person looking for a safe and convenient place to walk, this is your forum to express your opinion," Murphy said.

McMillen Engineering Company of Uniontown, the firm preparing a master site plan of the park, will conduct the meeting and drawings of the park and possible future improvements will be on display.

Current work is being funded through a grant provided to the borough by the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority.

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The park's location, between the proposed Rail-to-Trail and the Monongahela River, increases its potential to expand significantly, according to Murphy.

The state Fish and Boat Commission leases a portion of the park for a boat launch area, while the Upper Mon Water Trail, flowing from Fairmont, W.Va., to Rices Landing, has made the park one of the points of interest on its map. There are also plans for a proposed boat dock at the park for boaters traversing the Monongahela River, and the Sheepskin Trail will someday connect with the Mon River Trail coming north from West Virginia, Murphy said.

"All of these good developments will make the Point Marion Community Park more important to the community," she continued. "Please come to the important town meeting on June 17 to say what improvements you would like to see in the Point Marion Community Park."

For more information, contact a Friends of the Park board member. Members are: Pat Cavenas, Diane Condoluci, Joe Condoluci, Wally Hughes, borough Councilman Chris Kaczmarczyk, Gretchen Kaczmarczyk, Mary Murphy, borough Mayor Bob Wolfe and Stanley Wolfe.

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