

Press Release

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VOLUNTEER PARK CONCEPT PLAN APPROVED

- NEW EGYPT, NJ JULY 16, 2007: At its July 12, 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of Main Street New Egypt voted to accept the recommendation of its Design Committee for the construction of Volunteer Park. Volunteer Park will replace the old fire house building on Evergreen Road removed earlier this year. The park will include a Monument Wall to recognize individuals who volunteered for either the fire house or first aid squad. A brick path will lead visitors to the Wall. A path around the perimeter of Volunteer Park will be built as will a low-tech canoe and kayak launch to the Crosswicks Creek. According to Main Street New Egypt Board President Dennis Kleinknecht, the estimated construction cost for the park is \$115,000. Kleinknecht noted that Plumsted Township

and Main Street New Egypt have applied for a Centers of Place Grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation to fund the Park's construction. The Centers of Place Grant also includes a request for funding for more benches and signage on Main Street. The Main Street organization has raised approximately \$13,000 to date for the park. This money has been used for the building demolition, design and engineering costs. Kleinknecht hopes Main Street New Egypt will be able to start construction on the project within the year.

Close to Main Street businesses and municipal parking, Volunteer Park will increase the attractiveness of our downtown and provide an added recreational amenity for outdoor enthusiasts, Kleinknecht noted. With the addition of the canoe and kayak launch, Main Street New Egypt plans to create a canoe trail on the Crosswicks Creek from Volunteer Park to Walnford Park area in Monmouth County. Currently, Oakford Lake above the New Egypt Dam provides

canoeists an opportunity for a pleasant excursion. According to Mayor Dancer, our first effort was to restore the firehouse building as a museum. Unfortunately, this proved to be impractical due to structural and other age related issues. Building a park as a way to remember and recognize our firemen and first aid squad volunteers and the opportunity to create a canoe trail on the Crosswicks Creek below Oakford Lake is a winning combination for New Egypt, Dancer added.

The concept plan for Volunteer Park will be on display at the Municipal offices located at 121 Evergreen Road and The Welcome Center at 31 Main Street. Public comments are welcomed.