

Residents of Pittston Township

Much criticism has been forthcoming about the Attardo Renovation Project. I wish to set the record straight as to the sequence of events which led up to the recent work stoppage. In April of 2021 application was made with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for renovations (DCNR). As with any grant, there is a formal waiting period while the respective Department reviews the project. The initial approval was made for \$70,000 with a 50% match. Realizing that additional funds were required a re-application was submitted and the grant funding was increased to \$109,500.

A contract was awarded to George Ely Associates in June of 2022. It should be pointed out that no equipment could have been contracted for until final approval by DCNR. Ely Associates would furnish the playground equipment and they hired a subcontractor to do the installation. Supply chain issues caused a delay in receiving the playground equipment. After much discussion and objections of the Twp. Ely began construction in February, 2023. Several visits during construction were made and issues were raised concerning the construction and assurances were made by the contractor that the project would be in ADA compliance. When it became apparent that the construction was not being done in accordance with ADA standards and engineering drawings the job was stopped.

At the present the three project coordinators are looking into several corrective action plans. Several meetings have taken place with Ely and the subcontractor. Three alternate proposals have been received. All corrective plans have to be approved by DCNR in order not to jeopardize the project funding. An on-site meeting will be held with DCNR to discuss the Twp. plans for completion of the project.

I feel that what is being done is far from incompetency or mismanagement. We are looking out the safety and well being of the children who will use this park and are concerned about liability issues which could arise from improperly installed playground equipment and workmanship.

John Bonita, Administrator