

Bridgewater Buys Land For New Park

By ALEX ROHR
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Courtesy / Eugene Stoltzfus Via Town of Bridgewater

HARRISONBURG — Bridgewater Town Council is moving forward on a park plan that’s been in development for about a decade, according to Jay Litten, the town’s attorney. The plan is a little different than most park blueprints — this park will feature the only public ice skating rink in the area.

Last week council approved the allocation of \$80,000 of Industrial Development Authority funds to purchase the lot at 418 Main Street. That space, along with two other properties already owned by the town, will form the multifaceted “Generations Park,” according to a statement from the town.

Restaurant Wanted

During winter, the park will host ice skating at a rink that will be used, sans the ice of course, as a farmer’s market during warmer months, the statement said.

The space, designed by Eugene Stoltzfus, a Harrisonburg architect, will include public parking, pedestrian-friendly shopping and retail space, according to officials.

“It’s an economic idea and a recreation idea, and also a cultural idea,” Litten said. “This is a way for Bridgewater residents to have a better life.”

Before work on the facility starts, though, the town wants to sign a restaurant to lease space in the park.

“Anybody who wants to come in and thinks they can be successful, we’ll certainly listen,” Litten said.

Three Lots, One Park

The town has owned one of the lots for over a decade and another for a few years, Litten said. IDA money made purchasing the third possible.

Nonprofit borrowers can pay fees to the IDA to help them obtain low- interest loans from a third party.

“Not only do we assist nonprofit organizations, 501c3 organizations, in gaining financing that helps them perform their mission, we collect money which allows us to do economic development projects for the town without spending tax money,” Litten said.

The town has not announced a construction date, but hopes to begin as soon as possible.

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Jason Lenhart / DN-R

Lots 414 and 418 in Bridgewater will be combined with another lot for a future park.