

Kulpmont approved for \$538K grant

By TIM ZYLA THE WEEKENDER

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KULPMONT — The Borough of Kulpmont has been approved to receive a \$548,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as part of its Growing Greener initiative, that could lead to the repaving of many borough streets during the installation of stormwater drainage.

Councilman Steve Motyka, who works closely with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, said Friday the project will improve stream water quality, reduce the chances of flash flooding in the borough and foster an increase of wildlife in the area.

According to an application filed with the state, the money will be used to restore Quaker Run by addressing abandoned mine drainage and improving water quality and replacing and updating existing municipal storm sewer systems to meet current design standards.

In its application, the borough states it is targeting Quaker Run located in Veterans Memorial Park and residential portions of Kulpmont.

“The project site is located on property owned and/or maintained by Kulpmont Borough, which will complete maintenance of the project after implementation,” the application reads.

At Veterans Memorial Park, the borough is planning 905 feet of stream restoration that will include construction of cross vanes, clay lining of the stream bed, stabilization of the stream banks, native riparian buffer plantings along the stream channel and creation of a 7,950-square-foot bio-retention cell.

Within the residential areas of the borough, Kulpmont plans to use the grant to help fund design, permitting and construction implementation of municipal storm sewer updates and retrofits.

“When we’re doing this work we will be ripping up the streets and repaving them, so not only will this help to reduce the chances of flash flooding causing problems, but the majority of the streets that run north-south will be paved.”

Motyka said he expects bidding on the projects to be completed by the spring, and noted engineers have been working on the design portion of the project for the past six months.

“Portions of the borough currently lack existing conveyance systems, which prevent stormwater conveyance control and adequate treatment. These upgrades would enhance the ability to control and treat runoff from the borough streets,” the application reads.

The borough has received a total of nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding for the project, and Motyka said there is an outstanding grant application that could provide another \$325,000 in funding.

“The original project was budgeted for less, but this project is continuing to grow in scope,” he said.