

Town of Vernon

From the office of the Mayor

February 15, 2023

Erika Siebenthal
Grants Coordinator
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
Community Trails and Grants
402 W. Washington Street, Room 298
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**RE: Historic Vernon to Muscatatuck Park Vinegar Mill Overlook Trail
Grant #: NLT-02-08**

Dear Ms. Siebenthal:

I am concluding my 10th term (20th year) as mayor of the Town of Vernon, but I am not seeking reelection on March 7th and as such will not be Mayor after March 9th, 2023. I am also a partner and CEO of FPBH, Inc. a local engineering firm. FPBH, Inc. did the initial county wide trail master plan and prepared the documents for the grant application for the above-mentioned grant. This all had to be done on a pro bono basis, as I was the elected official, signatory to the project. Once the grant was awarded, I felt that FPBH would be best suited to complete the engineering needs of this project, however, once again I was somewhat constrained by my relationship both to the Town and FPBH.

Due to these legal constraints, I was attempting to pursue handling this project on a pro bono basis, but due to changes in the work load and work environment, post covid, we simply did not have that level of capacity within the company to move forward, and I failed miserably in my leadership obligations to both the Town and FPBH.

As a result, I would like to make two requests as follows:

1. As I will no longer be mayor, I request that I be removed as the signatory in responsible charge for this grant and once the election is completed and a new mayor is in office, that that person be inserted into that role.
2. My second request is that the Town be granted an extension of time to complete this project. I would like to request that the new administration be allowed to submit a revised schedule to get this project back on track for completion. The

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Town and community as a whole are very much supportive and wanting to complete this project and should not be penalized due to my lack of action.

Once again, I apologize to DNR and my community for my lack of care and response to assure this project was kept on track. It is truly a much needed and appreciated project and will be utilized extensively by many, not just in our community, but by those that visit our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (812) 592-1410.

Very Truly Yours,

Daniel W. Wright, Mayor
Town of Vernon