

Hawley Silk Mill Seeks Energy Stimulus Funds

By T. Renn

Hawley Silk mill LLC, a group of local investors, is exploring redeveloping the former silk mill into a multi-use building, which would bring more businesses to Hawley Borough. They are applying for a stimulus grant to help cover the costs of upgrade the HVAC system and insulating the roof.

By Thomas Renn

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Hawley, Pa. -

Council moved quickly to help possibly snag some stimulus funds for the area. Hawley Silk Mill LLC Attorney Anthony Waldron asked Council to act as the sponsor for a grant for energy saving improvements which will be a part of the Silk Mill project if it is approved. Waldron said he first heard about the grant, part of \$22 million available in Pennsylvania to public and non-profit groups for energy saving projects, last Friday. The deadline is next week. He asked if the Borough had a grant in the works because they did not want to compete with them for a grant. Council said they didn't. Waldron said Hawley Silk Mill will pay all costs associated with the grant including fees to the Borough's grant consultant and administration fees. He added that includes matching funds and any costs the Borough incurs even if the grant application is denied. Waldron said the grants were available to businesses if they can show energy savings and that the project will help keep or create jobs. He explained the silkmill building roof did not have any insulation in it and they had planned to install heating and air conditioning systems anyway, both of which would save energy. Hawley Silkmill expects the improvements to save about \$34,000 per year. They had just done an energy audit on the building as part of their planning process to development it. He added they were looking at installing new lighting so adding more efficient lights would not be a problem and would help meet the energy savings requirements. The maximum grant is \$250,000, but Waldron said they didn't expect to get that much. Waldron said they were already contacting State lawmakers to seek their support for the grant. Hawley Silkmill is also seeking to bring the building up to green certification standards as part of the development. They were not sure they would meet all the standards, but said in the past they were working to make it as green as possible.