

Borough Picks Design Firm for New Garage

New Hope Borough Council has voted to retain THA Consulting, of Blue Bell, to prepare the architectural and engineering design for a proposed parking garage just north of the Union Square complex. Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Parking Facilities determined that THA Consulting's team made the strongest of six offers submitted to the Borough.

New Hope Borough issued a Request for Proposal for the design work on April 20. Six firms submitted bid responses, and three demonstrated sufficient experience with municipal garages and familiarity with local conditions. Those three made in-person presentations to the Committee, which selected THA Consulting.

The Borough Solicitor will work out the details on a \$422,000 contract for services. The Parking Facilities Committee has noted two important priorities for the agreement — timeliness, to ensure that critical deadlines are met for the Borough to receive the already authorized \$1.75 million state grant for the project, and termination provisions, protecting the borough in the event that New Hope chooses to not proceed.

Once a contract is executed, the Borough, along with the firm, will hold public meetings to get input to guide their preparation of preliminary designs. These designs then will be presented in multiple meetings to gain additional input, assess community standards and review alternate proposals. Once a preliminary design has been agreed to, THA Consulting will prepare a final design plan and construction specifications, which will serve as the basis for an RFP to select a construction firm.