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Kilns group applies for non-profit designation

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Press writer

The Coplay Cement Kilns Preservation Society is awaiting approval of an application for non-profit status from the federal government so that members can step up their fund-raising efforts to preserve the remaining brick kilns at the Saylor Park site.

Coplay Borough Council members were informed at their April meeting that the society is still waiting for the 501(c) (3) designation needed in order to proceed with seeking donations to support the effort. The campaign is expected to reach out to large corporations and foundations.

Meanwhile the organization is not standing idly by. Applications have been made for more than 20 grants. Essroc Cement, based in Nazareth, the successor to Coplay Cement Manufacturing Company has pledged to help fund the project. The amount of funding has not yet been made public.

Lou Jany, society president, said the organization's first thrust is to preserve the kilns, after which the installation of a brick walkway and museum are being contemplated for the park.

Lehigh County, which owns the Saylor Park property and kilns, had threatened earlier to have the remaining kilns torn down unless there was funding in place to restore the unimproved kilns. Several years ago, another citizens committee had worked with the county to restore several of the kilns. This effort will be to restore the remaining ones standing at the park.
