

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2015
7:00 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its first regular meeting of the month on Monday, February 02, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Board:	Richard Mascolo, Chairman	Staff:	Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
	Drew Clemson, Vice Chairman		David Modricker, Public Works Director
	Elliott Killian		Maria Tranguch, Planning & Zoning Director
	Janet Whitaker		David Pribulka, Assistant Township Manager
	Steve Miller		

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Barbara Christ, Penn State; Elwin Stewart, resident; Bob Oberheim, Penn State; Kevin, Joe and Annie Doncsecz, Eagle Scout Project

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mascolo called the Monday, February 2, 2015, regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

III. CITIZENS INPUT

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCES

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS – RESOLUTIONS

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SEWER PLANNING MODULE FOR THE COTTAGES AT STATE COLLEGE AND THE WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK

Mr. Kunkle stated the Sewer Planning Module is for two projects, The Cottages at State College and the Whitehall Road Regional Park which will both be serviced by a sewer pump station and a forced main that will provide sanitary sewer to both projects. The Department of Environmental Protection requires that a sewer planning module be submitted for both projects. The Board delayed their action on this resolution from their last meeting so staff could review comments from the University Area Joint Authority that were attached to the planning module. Although the comments may be applicable to an amendment to Act 537 sewage facilities plan for the region, UAJA has already approved the method of sanitary sewer service to both projects utilizing a sewer pump station and forced main.

Mr. Clemson asked if those comments could become binding at some point in time. Mr. Kunkle responded that they may be applicable at a point in time when the region determines that an update to Act 537 sewer plan is considered.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-03 approving the submission of a sewer planning module for The Cottages at State College and the Whitehall Road Regional Park. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Mr. Miller: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CENTRE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mr. Kunkle stated the Memorandum of Understanding is with the Centre County Conservation District for services related the Township's NPDES permitting process for projects located within the Township. The Conservation District has provided erosion and sedimentation control planning review and enforcement. As part of the NPDES permit and MS4 projects the Township is required to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with the Conservation District.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-04 authorizing the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Township and the Centre County Conservation District. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Mr. Miller: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

3. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING A TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY.

Mr. Modricker stated the Traffic Calming Policy was reviewed with the Board on January 19th. The policy sets forth a process and a way to evaluate and implement traffic calming measures on certain streets within the Township. The policy primarily addresses volume and speed concerns from citizens on predominantly residential roads located in the Township.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-05 approving a traffic calming policy. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Mr. Miller: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

VI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

VII. ACTION ITEMS

1. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CENTRE REGION BUILDING AND HOUSING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mr. Kunkle stated the Board has been referred from the General Forum for confirmation appointments to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals. The following are the recommendations from the General Forum: Core Board: Douglas Henry, Steven Balkey, Kevin Parfitt, Paul S. Lehr, (Alternate), James Thornton, Jr.; Plumbing Board: Robert Siegenthaler, (Alternate) Louis Berrena, Jr., (Alternate) Tim Scharf; Mechanical Board: Louis Berrena, Jr., Tim Scharf, (Alternate) Christopher Howe; Property Maintenance Board: (Alternate) Edward Poprik; Electrical Board: Richard Koval, P.E., (Alternate) Louis Berrena, Jr.

Mr. Miller made a motion to APPOINT slate of nominations forwarded by the General Forum on January 26, 2015 to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals to three year terms commencing February 15, 2015. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. AWARD EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION – KEVIN DONCSECZ

Mr. Doncsecz is a former scout of Troop 31. He completed the information kiosk now located in Homestead Park. He chose Homestead Park because he grew up in the neighborhood. He contacted Mr. Kunkle through another troop member who had completed a project in the park. He created a proposal for the project and was able to get sizable donations from Lowes, Home

Depot and his family for the project. He recruited helpers to construct the project. They constructed pieces of the kiosk separately at his home and transported the pieces to the park where they were then assembled.

Mr. Clemson presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Donczek.

Ms. Whitaker congratulated Kevin on his project and his recognition as an Eagle Scout.

3. PENN STATE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ZONING DISTRICT REQUEST FOR USE CHANGES

Ms. Tranguch stated that the purpose of this conversation is to receive feedback from the Board on the change of use proposed in the Ag Research District. Penn State has already proposed this change to the Planning Commission and the next step in the process would be submit a formal application requesting the changes in use. The proposed change is to use the Ag Progress Days site for other activities/events such as equine shows and public safety training. The letter forwarded to the Planning Commission also mentioned the desire for the Township to acknowledge certain forest land management activities. An example would be forest fire training for DCNR. In addition the desire to change current non-conforming use, dog training, to a conforming use. Some items to look at and or question with this change is the safety and security of the events, can the number of events be limited and should each event be permitted by the Township. Some considerations for the Board include the forestry clause in the municipal planning code stating zoning ordinances may not unreasonably restrict forestry activities and the comprehensive plan states that every use needs to be accommodated somewhere.

Mr. Killian asked what uses in the comprehensive plan was Ms. Tranguch indicating may need accommodated. Ms. Tranguch responded that there may not be equine events in the area. Mr. Clemson stated there used to be equine events located at Kocher Farm. Mr. Kunkle stated this is an item that would require further research by Township Staff.

Mr. Bob Oberheim, Penn State University Manager of the Ag Progress Days site stated that Ms. Tranguch outlined the University's wishes. Mr. Oberheim stated they plan for future events would be on the small scale. The Grange Fair Grounds are becoming hard to book for smaller venues.

Mr. Clemson asked how many equine requests the University has received. Mr. Oberheim stated that at this time they have not received many because people know the site is not available. He anticipates maybe 2 or 3 events a year.

Ms. Whitaker asked if there be any camping on the site for these events. Mr. Oberheim stated no, the only time that camping may occur would be for DCNR to complete simulation training for forest fires.

Mr. Killian asked if the site is currently being used only for events, is any research being done on the site. Mr. Oberheim stated some research is being done there for forestry, rapid growth willow plantings for energy, conifer growth and timber harvesting. Mr. Killian is concerned about the equine events growing large and the site being used less and less for research being done

Mr. Clemson stated he would like to see the site being used for more than it currently is.

Mr. Mascolo asked if each event would be permitted. Mr. Oberheim stated the University would be willing to permit each event.

Mr. Miller stated that it is time to take a look at alternate uses for the site.

The Board has no major objections at this point on the submission of an application to make changes to the Agricultural Research District ordinance.

4. REVIEW DRAFT PARK NAMING POLICY

Mr. Kunkle stated the Park Naming Policy has been put together in response to the number of parks the Township has and the process the Township has used in the past for naming the parks. The Township is currently in the process of developing the Westfield/Hillside Farm Estates Park. When the Township received a grant for the development of the park the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said the Township should consider an alternate name for this park. The Township was approached by an individual on a suggestion for naming the park, prompting Mr. Kunkle to draft the naming policy. The policy indicates the criteria for naming parks including the following: the geographic location; outstanding features; adjoining subdivision, street, school or natural feature; commonly recognized historical event, group or organization; an individual (living or deceased), an organization that contributes significantly to the acquisition or development of a park; outstanding accomplishments of an individual to the community; exceptional service to the park system as a whole. The policy discourages renaming a park once a name has been established. The naming process would include review by the Planning Commission and the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority. The Board is in support of this policy.

5. APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON TO THE CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Mr. Kunkle stated the Board adopted the Memorandum of Understanding at its January 19th meeting. One of the provisions of the MOU was to appoint a liaison to the Preservation Board. This liaison does not need to be a Board member. Mr. Clemson suggested this position be created as an ABC position and he would recommend reaching out to Mr. Bill Keough as the Township representative.

6. VARIANCE REQUESTS

a. LOUIS E. SILVI BASEBALL COMPLEX – 485 AIRPORT ROAD

Mr. Kunkle stated the application was filed on behalf of the Township for a variance at the Louis E. Silvi Baseball Complex. The variance is for relief of Section 801C, Flood Plain Regulations in the Township Zoning Ordinance. The site has a mapped flood plain located from right field to about 3rd base. The project will include removing about 2100 cubic yards of fill material that was previously placed into the flood plain. The Township Engineer evaluated the site and stated that the proposed grading of the land will not cause any increase in the 100 year flood elevation.

Mr. Clemson made a motion to SUPPORT the variance application at the Louis E. Silvi Baseball Complex. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. RANDY WATKINS – 550 BLOOMSDORF DRIVE

Mr. Kunkle stated the variance application is for a subdivision plan for property located at 550 Bloomsdorf Drive. The application is to request relief from the Townships requirement for parcels to access a lower classification street. The applicant is not able to gain approval to access Bloomsdorf and would like to gain access to Fieldstone which is a higher classification roadway.

Mr. Killian made a motion to REMAIN NEUTRAL on the variance application of Randy Watkins, 550 Bloomsdorf Drive. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Killian made a motion to APPROVE the consent agenda including the Municipal Notification for the Cottage / Whitehall Road Regional Park Pump Station and Surety Reductions for Foxpointe Phase 11 for \$23,458, Hunters Chase Phase 7 for \$20,807, Hunter's Chase Phase 10 for \$85,908.30 and the Landings Phase 5 for \$4,813. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

1. Manager

Mr. Kunkle stated on Saturday, January 24 staff coordinated a quarterly Coffee and Conversation which was hosted by the Baileyville Grange. Over the course of the two hour conversation we were joined by 17 residents who discussed a wide range of topics. Also included with the Manager Report was a thank you from First Night for the Township's continued support.

Mr. Mascolo stated on Tuesday, January 27th Mr. Kunkle was appointed as Chairman of the PennPRIME Insurance Trust by Richard Schuettler, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Municipal League.

2. Public Works Director

Mr. Modricker stated Township staff will be presenting stormwater information in upcoming meetings including the MS4 permit and education updates. Staff is continuing interviews for public works staff and completed interviews for the Arborist position.

Mr. Miller complemented the Public Works Department on their snow removal efforts.

3. COG Committee Reports

a. Transportation and Land Use

Mr. Miller stated the committee met today. The main topic discussed the bicycle plan. The planning has been slow but it will pick up in the coming months. They also discussed the winter maintenance on the bicycle paths. The committee is very pleased with the maintenance of the paths. The Board discussed the use of motorized vehicles on the shared use paths and some thoughts on this for future discussion at the Transportation and Land Use Committee.

IX. MINUTES

Mr. Killian made a motion to APPROVE the January 19, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Killian made a motion to ADJOURN the meeting. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Mascolo adjourned the regular meeting at 8:14 pm to an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors
Date approved by the Board: 02/17/2015