

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Board of Supervisors held its first regular meeting of the month on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 as a virtual zoom meeting. In attendance were:

**Board:** Laura Dininni, Chair  
Lisa Strickland, Vice Chair  
Hillary Caldwell  
Patty Stephens  
Tierra Williams

**Staff:** Centrice Martin, Interim Township Manager  
Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works  
Jenna Wargo, Director of Planning and Zoning  
Nick Beiling, Communications Coordinator

Others in attendance included: Rhonda Demchak, Recording Secretary; Bill Keough, Ferguson Township Planning Commission; Charima Young, Ferguson Township Resident; Jeremie Thompson, Ferguson Township Planning Commission; Kathy Detwiler, Ferguson Township Resident, Ford Stryker, SC Borough Water Authority; Pearce Rush, Ferguson Township Resident; Steve Miller, Ferguson Township Resident; Sierra Weaver, Ferguson Township Resident, Doug and Pam Ford, Snetsinger Butterfly Garden, Lawrence Maso, Ferguson Township Resident

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Dininni called the Tuesday, March 1, 2022, regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Dininni noted that there was an Executive Session on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Ms. Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the Board of Supervisors meeting had been advertised in accordance with the PA Sunshine Act as a virtual meeting via Zoom with space available in the Township main meeting room for any public members to participant. Persons attending the meeting as members of the public and wanted to participate were asked to enter their name, municipality, and topic by utilizing the Q&A bubble at the bottom of the screen. Members of the public are to be muted during the meeting and must be acknowledged by the Chair. The chat feature has been turned off. C-NET is recording as well. Ms. Martin took Roll Call and there was a quorum.

Ms. Martin introduced and welcomed Mr. Nick Beiling as the Township's new Communications Coordinator.

### **II. CITIZENS INPUT**

Mr. Lawrence Maso, Ferguson Township Resident, reported that on Blue Course Drive there is an abundance of vehicles speeding, along with loud exhaust from muscle cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Mr. Maso stated that his house vibrates from the noise that is coming from the traffic. Mr. Maso recognized that there are two vehicles that are repeat offenders, a black Ford Mustang, and a white Dodge Challenger. Mr. Maso suggested having a plain clothed officer sit along the road because Blue Course Drive is straight and very visible. Ms. Dininni suggested for Mr. Maso to contact Chief Chris Albright of the Ferguson Township Police Department. Mr. Maso expressed concerns that this may be decreasing the value of homes in the area.

Ms. Charima Young, Ferguson Township Resident, reported that she lives along Blue Course Drive and has talked to the SC Borough Police about the traffic issue. Ms. Young suggested that the Township have a joint conversation with the SC Borough Police because the Borough polices part of the road as well.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the February 1, 2022, and February 15, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS REPORT

#### a. State College Borough Water Authority Report

Mr. Ford Stryker noted that the report was included in the packet.

### V. SPECIAL REPORTS

#### a. COVID-19 Local Response Report – Centrice Martin, Interim Township Manager

Ms. Martin reported that there has not been changes in the operational aspect of the Township from the last update. All Township Staff is reporting to the office with no staff having COVID-19. Centre County has 30,881 positive cases with approximately 341 deaths. There have been 85,944 reported negative cases reported on the PA COVID-19 Dashboard for Centre County. Across the Commonwealth, the cases have reached 2,287,734 and there have been 43,332 deaths. Centre County full vaccination rate shows that 94,173 residents have been fully vaccinated with approximately 14,070 having received one dose. The County vaccination rate is at 60% and 69.2% have been partially vaccinated. Mount Nittany Medical Center has 20 positive patients in their care ranging in ages from 31 to 100 years of age. 11 of the 20 hospitalized were unvaccinated and no patients are on ventilators. Ms. Martin noted that the [CDC](#) released an interactive map to track the cases and Centre County is in the high category. The map will be added to the Township's website. Ms. Martin encouraged all Ferguson Township residents to receive the vaccine. Ms. Martin thanked the community for their patience and understanding as we recover from the pandemic.

#### b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusionary Initiatives – No Report.

#### c. Township and Fiscal Responsibility – 2021 State of Planning Report

Mr. Jeremie Thompson, Chair, Planning Commission Ferguson Township, presented the report that was included in the agenda via PowerPoint.

#### d. Community And Economic Development – No Report

#### e. Environment – Snetsinger Butterfly Garden (SBG)

Mr. Doug Ford, Master Gardener Community Development Coordinator, and Pam Ford Master Gardener presented a PowerPoint of the [garden](#). Mr. Robert Snetsinger began the garden by developing one acre in 1995. Mr. Snetsinger passed away, but over 60 master gardeners are carrying on his mission.

Ms. Ford reviewed the eight Demonstration Gardens.

1. Woodland Edge
2. Discovery Garden
3. Monarch Watch Waystation
4. Serenity Space
5. Backyard Bird Habitat
6. Native Shrub Showcase
7. Pollinator Preferences Study

## 8. Native Bee Conservation

There is on site programming that includes tours, habitat chats, trainings, and events. Wings in the Park will be held on July 23, 2022. The Satellite Gardens of the SBG include school, municipal and state parks, churches, libraries, community gardens, and health care settings.

Ms. Stephens and Ms. Williams thanked the Ford's for their report. Mr. Modricker suggested having the SBG partner with the Township on Arbor Day.

Ms. Dininni thanked the Ford's for their great report and suggested having the SBG give an annual report to stay connected.

Ms. Strickland thanked the Ford's for their report and asked if they are involved with other schools outside of the State College Area School District. Ms. Ford stated they are involved with Philipsburg and Bald Eagle.

Ms. Strickland suggested sharing the report to the ABC's. Ms. Ford stated they would be happy to provide and offered to give a tour to the Board.

Ms. Ford reported that a puppet musical has been written by a master gardener called, *Pollinators the Musical* and will debut at the PS Arboretum on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## VI. COG AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS

All reports are included in the agenda packet.

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Centre County Metropolitan Planning Committee

## VII. STAFF REPORTS

All reports are included in the agenda packet.

- a. Manger's Report
- b. Public Works Director Report
- c. Planning and Zoning Report

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Authorization to Proceed with Procuring Ornamental Streetlight for Pine Grove Mills

Mr. Modricker noted that the report was included in the agenda and that the recommended motion is to authorize staff to proceed with the design of Contract 2019-C21, Pine Grove Mills Streetlight Improvement Project, to include replacement of twenty-five existing high pressure sodium fixtures with 2700K LED ornamental streetlight fixtures.

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **authorize** staff to proceed with the design of Contract 2019-C21, Pine Grove Mills Streetlight Improvement Project, to include replacement of twenty-five existing high pressure sodium fixtures with 2700K LED ornamental streetlight fixtures. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion.

Ms. Stephens asked if many commented on the brightness of the light. Mr. Modricker stated there were approximately a half-dozen who came to view.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Voucher Report – January 2022
- b. Donation Request – Ferguson Township Senior Citizens

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the Consent Agenda and the Voucher Report. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. C-NET Board Member Vacancy

Ms. Martin noted that provided with the agenda the Township received the resignation of Mr. Thomas Giles as the C-Net Board Representative for Ferguson Township. The C-NET Board meets quarterly, and the next meeting is scheduled for April. Provided with the agenda packet is a copy of the Board's policy on Authorities, Boards, and Commission (ABC) Appointments. The Board is asked to appoint a Board or staff member to attend the next two C-NET Board meetings which are scheduled for April and July of 2022. This would allow adequate time for staff to advertise the vacancy, receive applications in advance of the scheduling interviews. The Board is asked to discuss filing the vacancy. Ms. Martin stated they would advertise on C-NET, the paper, and promote on social media. The Board will meet with applicants to determine the representative.

Ms. Stephens asked about meeting logistics. Ms. Martin noted they meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each quarter.

Ms. Strickland volunteered to attend the April meeting, and Ms. Stephens volunteered to attend the July meeting. Ms. Martin will send details of the meetings to the Board members.

### 3. Authorization to Submit Variance Application for Park Hills Drainageway Project

Mr. Modricker reported that the Park Hills Drainage Improvement Project is well into design with permitting, right of way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction planned to start in 2022. A variance from the Township floodplain ordinance is required by the Township to work in the floodplain. All necessary permits from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be obtained, and work will be performed in accordance with the permits. Based on the limits of the modeled 100-year floodplain after improvements, and while the overall impact of flooding to property owners is less, certain stormwater easements are required on private property. Since some of the work to construct the project will be performed on property owned by others, the Township has requested those property owners to support the Township in the effort to obtain the required variance. Five of the seven property owners have consented to date. For those that do not consent in advance, the acquisition of the easement will provide us the authority to request the variance.

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **authorize** the Acting Township Manager to submit a variance application to the Zoning Hearing Board to perform work within the floodplain on lands owned by the Township and on private property where permission has been granted. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Board Member Request – Proclamation Recognizing Women's History Month of 2022

Ms. Martin reported that Ferguson Township recognizes the importance of celebrating the contributions women have made in the United States as well as the achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors also fully embraces and enjoys its historic first all-female Board as of 2022, marking the first time in the township's 220-year history this occurrence has taken place. Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Public Law 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." The Board of Supervisors is asked to consider the proclamation provided with the agenda.

Ms. Martin thanked Mr. Beilling for the well written proclamation.

Ms. Caldwell read the proclamation.

**Whereas**, Women's History Month is an annual celebration of the history and accomplishments of women across the world, and also an acknowledgement of their courage and struggle to attain the same basic human rights as men that still proceeds to this day; and

**Whereas**, Women's History Month was first formally declared in the United States in March of 1987 through a resolution passed by the United States Congress as a result of a petitioning effort through the National Women's History Project, and stems from its early iterations as Women's History Week, and Women's History Day, which is still annually held on March 8; and

**Whereas**, The accomplishments of women in the United States began far before the annual celebration of Women's History Month, as American women of all races and ethnicities have advanced society in the realms of abolition, voting rights, labor rights, civil rights, and have valiantly given their lives in honor of protecting these profound rights they fought so hard to achieve; and

**Whereas**, The specific theme of Women's History Month of 2022 is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope" in order to honor the countless women frontline healthcare workers, medical doctors, and those who have helped make strides in the fields of mental and physical health as we climb out of the COVID19 pandemic; and

**Whereas**, Ferguson Township greatly benefits from the plethora of women that reside in the township, and will always seek to honor women for their admirable contributions to society through large and small measures every day, and the times of undervaluing the role of women in society are no longer; and

**Whereas**, The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors also fully embraces and enjoys its historic first all-women roster as of 2022, marking the first time in the township's 220-year history this occurrence has taken place, and hopes to serve as a testament for power and representation of women in the Centre Region; and

**Now, therefore**, The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim March 2022 as Women's History Month in Ferguson Township, and encourages all residents to reflect, promote, and cherish the historical achievements of women across the world, the United States, and Centre County during this time period.

**Proclaimed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022.**

Ms. Williams moved that the Board of Supervisors **adopt** the Proclamation of the Township of Ferguson, Centre County, Pennsylvania officially recognizing Women's History Month. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Ms. Stephens thanked Mr. Modricker for his extra effort with the Cherry Land and Martin Street intersection.

Mr. Keough reported that on March 12<sup>th</sup> the Ferguson Township Police Department is partnering with the Baileyville Community Hall with a fire safety event from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. More information can be found on the Baileyville Community [website](#).

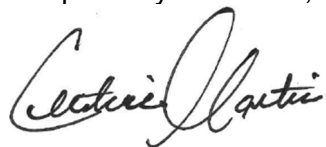
**XI. CALENDAR ITEMS – MARCH**

- a. Fire Safety Event at Baileyville Community Hall on Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- b. Ferguson Township upcoming committee meetings:
  - 1. Planning Commission - Monday, March 14 & 28
  - 2. Board of Supervisors Worksession - March 8
  - 3. Parks and Recreation Committee - March 10
  - 4. Tree Commission - March 21
  - 5. Pine Grove Mills Small Area Advisory Committee - March 24

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Stephens motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Centrice Martin, Acting Township Manager  
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 03-15-2022