

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP
PGM Small Area Plan Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2021 via Zoom. In attendance were:

Committee:

Matt Heller, Chairman
Paul Tomkiel, Vice Chairman
Liz Grove
Jordan Robb
Shannon Holliday

Staff:

David Pribulka, Township Manager
Jenna Wargo, Planning & Zoning Director
Kristina Aneckstein, Community Planner

Others in attendance: Laura Dininni, Armen Sahakian, Joni Arrington

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

Laura Dininni advised the Committee that there may be a potential grant opportunity to help with the development of the Small Area Plan. The program is a "Healing the Planet" grant from the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources. Armen Sahakian described his request to rezone a piece of his property located on Meckley Road. Mr. Sahakian proposed extending the Village Zoning District designation both east and west of the currently delineated Village District. Mr. Robb noted that land use regulations will have to change to implement the Small Area Plan and noted that Mr. Sahakian has a unique piece of land to accommodate what the Committee heard from the community in developing the plan.

IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 22, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Robb. Seconded by Mr. Tomkiel. Motion carried unanimously.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS – PINE GROVE MILLS FARMER'S MARKET

Mr. Robb suggested that there be a presence at the Farmer's Market from the Small Area Plan Advisory Committee. Mr. Tomkiel gave a short report on the upcoming Market. The first date is Thursday, June 10th. This year, the Market has received approval to accept SNAP benefits. Mr. Robb inquired about COVID-19 safety protocols that will be in place this year at the Market.

VI. "ROUTE 45 GETAWAYS" – CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Ms. Grove provided an update to the Committee on the planning for the event and the status of the grant application to the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau Tourism Grant program. Ms. Grove noted that the grant announcement would not be made until the end of June, which is a tighter timeline than originally expected. Mr. Pribulka noted he would attempt to get an update after the vote on the grant applications when the HVAB Board meets in June.

VII. PINE GROVE MILLS SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Robb – No update, but added that the conversation with Mr. Sahakian earlier today has highlighted the importance of land use regulations to the implementation of the Small Area Plan.

Ms. Grove – The “Explore Pine Grove Mills” Facebook page is live and Centrice Martin, Assistant Township Manager, has been assisting in publishing and developing content. Ms. Grove requested other Committee members provide her with regular updates on their implementation. Ms. Grove demonstrated the webpage for “Explore Pine Grove Mills.”

Ms. Holliday – Not in attendance. Pastor Paul talked about the “Our Town” features done by WPSU, and suggested that the Committee reach out to see if there would be interest in covering the Village. Mr. Tomkiel – Reported that the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices has been published and might be useful to the implementation of the Action Steps under Multimodal Transportation. Ms. Dininni inquired about the proposed banner and the distance that has to be between the flashing yellow arrow at the intersection and a banner. Mr. Pribulka will follow-up with the Committee once a response is received from PennDOT.

Mr. Heller – Reviewed the Action Steps associated with Economic Development and how the prioritization of those items have related to the other Action Steps in the category and the Small Area Plan. Mr. Heller reviewed the criteria being used to assign priorities to the Action Steps. The Committee discussed preliminary ideas for the community solar item in the Plan. Mr. Robb noted that the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund may be an option to capitalize on to help fund the projects or provide low-interest loans. Ms. Dininni described some other options for solar installations that the Committee could consider.

VIII. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PINE GROVE MILLS SMALL AREA PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE LOGO

Ms. Wargo discussed the renderings provided with the agenda and how they were developed. The Committee reviewed the different options. Mr. Robb noted that he would like to see renderings that incorporate other things as a Committee about the Village such as community and environment. Ms. Grove suggested incorporating some of the other features from the Village. Ms. Dininni echoed the comments from the Committee members and suggested reaching out to community members for input.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Grove noted that Saturday, June 12th, Pine Grove Hall is hosting an event that the Committee may want to have a presence at in order to spread awareness of the Small Area Plan. The Committee will coordinate by email on staffing and what resources to present.

Mr. Heller noted that he will be out of town in July and will not be able to preside over the meeting. Mr. Tomkiel will chair the July meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Tomkiel suggested that the Committee discussed the grant opportunity from DCNR that Ms. Dininni introduced earlier in the meeting. He suggested perhaps applying to install a kiosk to house some of the historical documents in the Village. Mr. Tomkiel, Mr. Heller, and Ms. Dininni will coordinate prior to the grant window opening up to discuss possible projects.

X. REPORTS

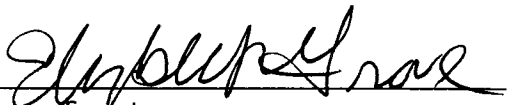
Mr. Pribulka reported that the Public Works road crew removed the banners hanging in Pine Grove Mills that read, "Mask Up, State College." The removal was done to acknowledge the change in state and federal guidelines requiring masking for vaccinated individuals. Mr. Pribulka reminded the Committee that the Township still requires masking in most settings under the current ordinance. An amended ordinance will be presented to the Board for consideration on June 7th.

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$300 donation to the Ferguson Township Elementary School "Fun Run" sponsored by the PTO.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to attend to, the May 27, 2021, meeting of the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Committee was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Liz Grove, Secretary

Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board