

Franklin Township
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Dec 1, 2022, Started at 7:01 PM

Call to Order: Chair Dr. Hoffman called the Planning Commission Meeting to order at 7:01 PM. In attendance were Dr. Harris, Mr. Gontarz, Mr. Lagasse, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Goin, Mr. Gerstenhaber and Franklin Township Operations Manager Jeff Eastburn.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

October Meeting minutes – No comments. Mr. Gontarz made motion to approve. Dr. Harris seconded. Approved 5-0.

Discussion of Pedestrian Access:

There was a lengthy discussion of what was appropriate for Franklin Township given our low population density, our rural low growth township character, hilly topography, narrow windy roads with a lack of shoulders in many places, and limited sight distances. We also noted that we have a combination of township and state roads.

We discussed a range of issues facing township residents, with the higher priority issues being:

- Hazards of walking on township and state roads because of narrow roads, lack of shoulders and limited sight distances.
- We discussed the hazards associated with picking up mail at the mailbox.
- We discussed options to make our roads safer for pedestrians.

We agreed there was no single solution for the myriad of situations we find within Franklin Township. We discussed numerous solutions for a number of specific situations we have experienced or observed in the township. We discussed the identification for “hot spots” and creating a list of priorities and then identifying possible solutions for “hot spots.”

We agreed that an initial approach would be to start a feasibility/identification study to identify and prioritize high impact areas and outline approach to improve specific situations. Initially we will keep our focus on the safety of walking on roads and getting mail out of mailboxes.

- Initially we would use resources within the township.
- Seek feedback from residents .
- Developing a list of priorities for pedestrian safety which might include mailbox access.

- New developments would incorporate pedestrian safe access.
- Postal service input/collaboration.
- Focus on high impact areas first.

Seek BOS input and approval approach for this activity.

Are there other townships that have considered this approach – Jeff will seek input.

Modify ordinances to incorporate the agreed feasibility results.

Historic District Ordinances Review:

Historic District ordinances have been reviewed and changes made to clarify inconsistencies in current ordinances and the addition of wording to facilitate emergency improvements. The ordinance will also institutionalize current Historic District township practices.

Mr. Lagasse made a motion for the Planning Commission to consider changes to the Historic District included in the December 1, 2022, meeting book as a basis for the revised ordinance.

Mr. Lagasse made the Motion and Dr Harris seconded the motion to move the ordinance changes to the Board of Supervisors so they will consider and approve moving the ordinances to Mr. Donatelli to comment and revise as needed for final review and approval.

Motion approved 5 – 0

Public Comment: No public comment.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.