



OFFICIAL UPDATE

This is a summary of the April 18, 2018, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dea, Morris, Snyder and Torres. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mark Thompson, PC Member, Brent Van Lith, Historical Commission and HARB Chairman, Paul Lagasse, Manager/Treasurer, Joan McVaugh, and Secretary Sharon Norris. There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was an additional item added to the agenda. A document entitled “Amended Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the Geoghegan Trail Parking Lot” requires the Chairman’s signature.

The Chairman marked the death of former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Supervisor Morris, 2nded by Supervisor Dea, the March 28, 2018 minutes were approved, 5-0.

Disposition of Records: On motion by Ms. Dea, 2nded by Supervisor Snyder, Resolution 2018-14 was approved 5-0. The motion authorized the erasure of the audiotapes from the March 1, 2018 PC meeting and the March 28, 2018 BOS meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: The Chairman made a motion, 2nded by Supervisor Torres, to approve the March 2018 Treasurer’s Report which includes the following disbursements and transfers: The General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$184,340.54; the Park and Recreation Fund with disbursements of \$54,982.47; the Open Space Fund with disbursements of \$6,768.42; the Emergency Services Fund with disbursements of \$37,115.62; and the Fire Hydrant Fund with disbursements of \$580.80; leaving a balance in all funds totaling \$640,588.15. The motion carried 5-0.

Zoning Officer/Building Inspector Report: Mr. Snyder reported that during the month of March, 8 permits were issued and 30 building inspections took place. \$7,413.38 in building fees; \$-0- in Recreation, Open Space, & Impact Fees and \$1,775.00 in miscellaneous fees were collected. There are two ongoing zoning issues: 308 Heather Hills: The Solicitor reported that the property is scheduled in District Court on April 26th but he is working with the Bank which is hoping to reach an agreement with the Township before that. 3300 Appleton Road: The property has begun cleanup, but not to an acceptable level. A filing was made in the District Court against the property. 3327 Appleton Road: Jeff Vogels has been in contact with the property owner who has agreed to clean up the porch area, secure the windows and fix the roof so the house does not deteriorate any further. A violation letter has been issued. The entire report can be reviewed on the Township website www.franklintownship.us.

PC Report: PC Member, Brent Van Lith, gave a summary of the April 5, 2018 PC meeting where the PC discussed commercial signs in the LDR District and updating certain chapters of the Zoning Ordinance to

include AG use regulations. The discussion will continue at the May meeting. Once approved, the minutes from this meeting will be available on the Township website (www.franklintownship.us).

HARB & Historical Commissions - Chairman Lagasse reported that these two commissions met on April 4th. The HC approved their Annual Report and discussed producing a Historic Resource Atlas for the Township with the Chester County Planning Commission's aid, using the Township's current historic resource surveys. The HC discussed the County's Landscapes3 plan and the public input session in New Garden Township, which Mr. Lagasse later attended. The HC also reviewed training opportunities. They are co-hosting a program on May 10th about the history of cider and how traditional cider-making is being revived at Old Stone Cider in Lewisville. The free program begins at 7 p.m. at the New London Academy. All are welcome. Mr. Lagasse also suggested people check out the Oxford Area Historical Association's website as they sponsor interesting historical talks. The HARB reviewed and approved their Annual Report. They recommended that the Supervisors approve the application for a COA for 1724 New London Road, and they discussed the disrepair of the Kennedy House (3327 Appleton Road). Manager McVaugh confirmed that a Police Report has been made for the Appleton Road property and an investigation is underway. She and the Zoning Officer have been in contact with the property owner.

Mr. Auerbach read aloud Proclamation 02-18 honoring Assistant Township Manager, Jeff Eastburn's, 25 years of service with the Township.

COA at 1724 New London Road – On motion by Supervisor Dea, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Board granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new roof and possible removal of the railing and roof deck at 1724 New London Road as recommended by the HARB at their April 4, 2018 meeting. This is based on the findings that the application is in compliance with Sections A-D of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and the proposed work is a necessary repair in keeping with and appropriate to the current appearance of the home. Motion carried unanimously. The homeowner was in attendance at the meeting.

Abel Subdivision – A motion was made by Mr. Auerbach, and seconded by Mr. Torres, that the Board accept the offer of an extension of time to the review clock through October 18, 2018 for the Abel Subdivision. The motion carried 5-0.

Stantec Proposal - At last month's meeting the Board requested that PennDOT be contacted regarding their opinion on moving forward with hiring a 3rd party engineering firm to perform core testing on the 3 roads that are showing signs of failing after only 3 years since they were fully reclaimed. PennDOT restated their opinion that the Township would not be successful in pursuing a lawsuit against the Contractor. The Manager explained that the results of the study could tell us how to move forward with fixing the roads.

Road Discussion – the Chairman reviewed the roads that had been identified and prioritized as possibilities for this year's road program. No final decisions have been made as to which roads will be included and which roads would be repaired using liquid fuels monies. It was stated that as usual, the number of projects is greater than the available funds the Township has to spend on the road program; and it was stressed that it was important to keep moving forward with improving roads as they deteriorate quickly. The Board also discussed replacing the Hess Mill Bridge in 2019 vs. 2020.

Park Millage Rate – the Chairman began the discussion by noting that the final payment on the park loan will be paid in 2019. The loan was initiated in 1996. When the loan payment is done, it will no longer be necessary for the General Fund to supplement the Park fund. The Park is funded by a dedicated tax rate of .27 mills. He noted that there is a long list of projects that we want to complete, since many were put on hold until the loan payment was finished. Since money identified for specific funds can only be used for that particular fund, the Board needs to determine whether the millage needs to be changed. The list of park projects will be on the website.

Ag Easement Discussion – When the organic dairy farmers purchased the farm at the corner of Strickersville and Appleton roads, their representative approached the Township regarding support for an Agricultural Easement on their property. The Township provided them with a favorable response. At that time, the County provided the Township with the ratio of payment (45% township/55% County) and an idea of what the cost would be. Recently, Chester County Open Space and Land Preservation Department provided the Board with the final, 5-year, no-interest payout schedule. The amount is more than what was originally proposed to the Township. The Board is supportive of the easement, however, finding the amount of money the County is requesting will prove to be difficult especially in 2018 when the park loan is still being paid. Several members of the public participated in this discussion. A representative from Chester County will attend the May BOS meeting.

Amended Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions - the Chairman explained that as part of the site improvement plan at the municipal site, the recycling bins and the Geoghegan Trail Parking Lot switched places. Therefore, the Parking Lot Easement Agreement needed to be revised. On motion by Mr. Snyder, 2nded by Mrs. Dea, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the Amended Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the Geoghegan Trail Parking Lot, which will be sent to the Recorder of Deeds for recording. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional Living Units – on motion by Mr. Torres, 2nded by Mr. Snyder, the Board postponed the advertising of the Additional Living Units Ordinance revision and will ask the PC to resume their review with Jeff Vogels in attendance at those meetings. The motion carried 5-0. Since the Board and members of the public had lots of questions about this ordinance, it was determined that Jeff Vogels' attendance would be beneficial since he interprets and enforces the Zoning.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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