

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2009
Vol. 23, No.1

www.pennsbury.pa.us

Year-end Report of the Supervisors

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Operations Efficiency and Effectiveness

The Board of Supervisors felt that the policy of conducting two Board meetings per month in the past was not necessary. The 2nd class township code requires only one Board meeting per month. Each Board meeting had taken about 1 1/2 hours each, so it was reasoned that one Board meeting per month would be sufficient to transact necessary business. The Board meeting was moved up to 7:00 PM so that the meetings could end at a reasonable hour if longer meetings were required. Through the October 2008 meeting, the once-per-month meetings still took only about 1 1/2 hours on average — the same as for the twice-per-month meetings of the past. One benefit is lower costs for the Township’s consultants and council who must attend the meetings. Special Board meetings were held from time to time when needed.

Communications

Communications were improved by changing the Board meeting room from the small area outside the Township manager’s office to the much larger Harris Room. The Harris Room can seat approximately 55 people comfortably whereas the old meeting area could seat only on the order of 20 in a tight squeeze. The Harris Room was outfitted with a new sound system with micro-phones for each person at the

head table and a roving mike for public comment. Meeting attendance has increased this year.

The township website has been completely redesigned for aesthetics, ease of use and added information resources. Drafts of current Board minutes are now being posted in advance of adoption by the Board. An announcement box was added for important information.

The Board meeting in April was held at the Crosslands senior community to afford the less mobile an opportunity to participate in township government.

Finances and Taxation

The long-term debt of the township was restructured as recommended by the Township’s financing consultant to reduce interest rate risk and provide financial flexibility.

The preliminary budget for 2009 has been posted and indicates no tax increase for 2009. However, there are likely to be no additions to reserves next year. The slump in real estate transactions has been a major contributor to the forecast for reduced revenues next year.

Open Space Protection

The management plan and conservation easement effort for Johnson Woods (a 36-acre nature preserve within Parker Preserve) was awarded to the Brandywine Conservancy in

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WINTER ROAD REMINDEERS

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PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
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Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Monday - Thursday
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

SUPERVISORS
Wendell Fenton, Chair
Scotty Scottoline, Vice Chair
Karen Wood

Year-end Report of the Supervisors (cont. from page 1)

a competitive bid process. The Gatehouse for Johnson's Woods within Parker Preserve is scheduled for completion early in 2009 and will be deeded to the township by Mr. Dambro.

Open Space Taxes were extended for one year through 2009 at the current rates while a voter referendum on future open space taxes is prepared for the ballot in 2009, as described elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Sewage and Storm Water Management Solutions

As described elsewhere in this Newsletter, much progress has been made regarding a sewage solution for the Rt. 1 Highway Commercial and Multi-Use districts. An environmentally friendly solution has been a major initiative of the new Board this year.

Alternatives for the next phases of the Chadds Ford Knoll storm water project were evaluated and a course of action adopted. An independent assessment by Register Assocs. confirmed the recommendations of the Township's engineer. Bid packages will go out this spring.

Historical Resource Preservation

A survey of township historical resources has been undertaken with the help of a consultant under a County Vision Partnership Grant from Chester County. An ordinance to regulate historical structure demolition is under consideration.

The Historic Commissions/Committees from the townships that comprise the Kennett Area Regional Planning Commission met in joint session for the first time and plan to meet periodically throughout the year to exchange ideas and actions.

The loan from the Township to the Pennsbury Historic Preservation Group for Mill improvements was paid off in full, including interest. The Pennsbury Historic Preservation Group has developed a partnership with Exelon Corp and there have been tours of the Mill by elementary schools in the area.

Subdivision, Land Development and Building Code Activities

There are a number of larger subdivisions in various stages: Pennsbury Village (Rt. 1), Windmill Hollow (Sanford: Brintons

Bridge Rd), Hawks Crest (Spano: Brintons Bridge Rd), and Springdale Farms (Mendenhall: Hillendale Rd/Hickory Hill Rd). The Board has been actively managing these developments to ensure a balanced outcome for the owners/developers and the township residents.

A LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) committee was formed to examine township building policy with an eye towards "green" efficiency in design.

REGIONAL SEWAGE SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE IN HAND FOR RT. 1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

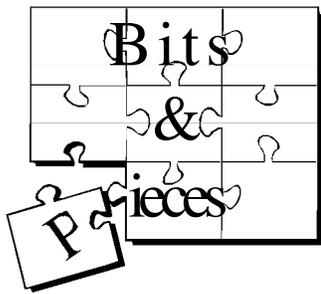
For a number of years, a regional solution has been sought for sewage treatment for the Highway Commercial (HC) and Multi-Use (MU) zoning districts along Rt. 1 that was as environmentally sensitive as possible and which provided for valuable and needed aquifer recharge.

The plan is for an expandable central plant to service all of the Rt. 1 HC and MU districts. This plant would be of advanced design, producing high quality sewage effluent. Land-based, subsurface sewage effluent disposal fields are planned. The proposal has been discussed with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the Township is awaiting their decision. The PA DEP has the final say on the matter.

OPEN SPACE TAXES EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR

The current Open Space taxes, both real estate property tax and earned income tax, will expire at the end of 2008. The Board of Supervisors approved a voter referendum for the November 2008 election to ask the voters of Pennsbury Township if they wanted to extend the Open Space taxes or not. Unfortunately, Chester County voter services mistakenly provided the township with erroneous data as to the lead-time for placing of an ordinance of this kind on the November 2008 ballot. When the discrepancy was discovered, it was too late to make the November elections. Consequently, the

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❖ PEDESTRIANS TO THE LEFT!

A township resident wrote: "As a frequent driver within Pennsbury Township, I am concerned for the safety of my fellow citizens (and for my own responsibility for their well-being). It IS the law of the Commonwealth that pedestrians are to keep LEFT when walking on the roads. It is most disconcerting to come over the brow of a hill and find walkers, joggers, and infant strollers right in front of one's car!"

PLEASE KEEP LEFT — let's not wait for an accident

to remind us of our dangerous exposure when on foot!

❖ 2009 DOG LICENSES

All dogs over three months of age must be licensed. Applications are available at the township office and online. There are reduced fees for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

❖ HELP WANTED

The Township is looking for community minded volunteers to serve on the Planning Commission, the Historical Commission and the Open Space Committee. If interested, call Kathy Howley at 610-388-7323.

❖ DRIVEWAY REMINDER

Resurfacing an existing driveway requires a permit.

They can be obtained from Roadmaster, Dave Allen, at 610-388-9108 or online. Sealing a driveway does NOT require a permit.

❖ THINGS YOU CAN RECYCLE

SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority) will be having an electronics recycling event on January 31 between 8 am and noon at the landfill on Rt. 926 in Chatham.

They will have personnel to help you unload TV's computers, stereos, calculators, etc.

Also you can take used motor oil and batteries there during business hours. More information go to, www:SECCRA.org

❖ KENNETT FOOD CUPBOARD

Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) operates the Kennett Food Cupboard, which provides food for local families in need. It is located at 515 South Broad Street in Kennett Square and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3:00 pm. KACS can be reached at 610-925-3556.

❖ KENNETT PIKE BIKEWAY

Pennsbury Township has applied for a grant through PennDot for the planning of a bikeway along the Kennett Pike, Rte. 52. If the grant is awarded, a steering committee will be formed for public input. If this interests you, please contact Kathy Howley at 610-388-7323.

Winter Road Reminders

❖❖ **Do not put leaves in the street or gutter.** It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.

❖❖ **Trim trees and shrubs along roads.** Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.

❖❖ **Secure your mailbox.** The Township is NOT responsible for damage to mailboxes. The mailbox and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. To prevent damage the front should be at least 12 inches from the edge of the road and the supporting post at least 3 feet from the edge of the road.

❖❖ **Keep the right-of-way clear.** Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner's risk.

❖❖ **Do not push snow into the street.** It is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to push snow into the street. It is also a danger to passing motorists.

❖❖ **Do not park on the street.** If our drivers do not think they can salt, cinder or plow a street or cul de sac safely, they will SKIP it or plow it last. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.

❖❖ **Main subdivisions will be plowed first.** Less populated areas later.



Bayard Taylor Library News



The Red Clay Café at 880 Baltimore Pike in Pennsbury Township has begun hosting storytimes presented by the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. Children’s Librarian John Hendrix visits the Red Clay Café the last Thursday of every month at 9:30 am for a special story time for listeners of all ages. Children are treated to a free hot chocolate in addition to a number of fun stories and tales. This program is free, and no registration is required.

In other news, the library gave its website a face lift recently, adding an array of new features that make it not only easier to use, but an interesting source of information. Members can check the online catalog to see what is on the shelves at all 18 libraries in the system, find out about story times and

other programs, and also access their own account and reserve items. Visitors can also view a list of the new items the library has added, or what books and movies staff members have enjoyed.

The Wilmington Drama League has begun presenting plays for children at the Library. The plays are held Saturdays at 2 p.m. and are part of the League’s “Pillow Play” series, which means children should bring a pillow or a cuddly toy, curl up on the floor and enjoy the show. Spring dates are March 14, April 18, and May 16.

Year-end Supervisors Report

(cont. from page 2)

Board voted to extend the open space taxes for one year at the current rates to maintain continuity in the program, as preparations are made for a voter referendum in 2009.

Approximately 38% of the total Earned Income Tax goes into the Open Space account and the remainder goes into the General Fund. The balance in the Open Space account as of October 31, 2008 was \$778,700.00.

PENNSBURY VILLAGE ASSOCIATES LITIGATION UPDATE

The proposed development known as Pennsbury Village Associates (PVA) has spawned litigation. In a recent development in one of the actions after trial in PVA’s suit against the Township and the Board of Supervisors seeking to prohibit Supervisors Fenton and Scottoline from participating in matters relating to PVA, the Court of Common Pleas entered an order (Order) prohibiting Supervisor Fenton from participating in any discussion and/or decision by the Board of

Supervisors relating to PVA. The Court found that PVA had not shown bias by Supervisor Scottoline and did not disqualify him. The Court established a procedure for the appointment of a Chester County attorney to act in place of Supervisor Fenton. A copy of the court’s decision is available in the Township offices.

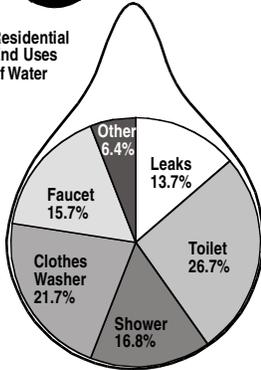
Based on the recommendation of the Township solicitor, the Township has appealed this decision. Among the reasons cited for recommending the appeal were that the disqualification of Supervisor Fenton was premature since no vote adverse to PVA had occurred, that the appointment of a Chester County attorney in his stead was inappropriate and that the Order was too broad barring Supervisor Fenton from discussing anything related to PVA. The Order could be read as applying to such Township-wide issues as property tax rates. The appeal acted as an automatic stay of the Order.

PVA earlier filed an action against a township resident. The Common Pleas Court’s denial of the resident’s motion to dismiss that action was reversed by the Commonwealth Court in a 6 -1 decision. PVA has appealed this decision to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. PVA filed a substantially similar case against the Township and Supervisor Fenton which is stayed pending resolution of the appeal of the Commonwealth Court decision.

Water Conservation Tips



Residential End Uses of Water



Fresh water is precious. An average household uses about 280 gallons of water each day. Here are some tips to conserve water and lower your water and sewerage bills.

1. **STOP LEAKS** — even the smallest faucet drip can waste 20 gallons a day, a leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons a day.

2. **TOILET** — refrain from using your toilet as a trash can for tissues, etc. as each flush can use to five gallons of water. If you don't have a low flow toilet, place a brick in your toilet tank but be careful not to interfere with the mechanism.

3) **DISPOSAL** —add food waste to the trash can instead of using the disposal. Disposals use a great deal of water and add unnecessary solids as well as nutrients to the sewer or septic system which are expensive and difficult for waste water treatment plants to remove and are detrimental to receiving streams. Better yet, start composting!

4) **FAUCETS** — use a dishpan for washing dishes and cleaning vegetables; keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator; to reduce the amount of water which must be run, insulate hot water pipes; turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving.

4) **CLOTHES WASHER**—use only full loads .

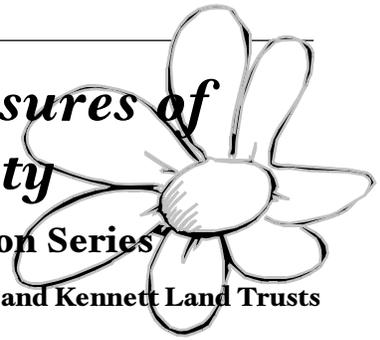
5) **SHOWER**— install low flow aerators and shower heads.

6) **OUTSIDE** — water less frequently and more deeply only in the morning, consider soaker hoses; use a broom rather than a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks; wash cars with a pail of soapy water and a hose with a trigger nozzle, better yet, take your car to the car wash as they recycle the water; winterize outdoor spigots and mark the master water shut off valve in case of burst pipes, cover an outdoor pool when not in use, spread dechlorinated pool water on grassy areas and never to streets or storm sewers.

Natural Treasures of Chester County

2009 Spring Education Series

Sponsored by the **Pennsbury and Kennett Land Trusts**



Discover how our local natural systems work as we visit several beautiful sites in Pennsbury and Kennett Square. Experts will share practical tips on evaluating and managing both large and small properties to encourage desirable wildlife in healthy habitats. Light refreshments will be provided.

Session I — Your Backyard Habitat

Using the pond, stream, woodlands and fields of Pennsbury Township Park learn how to enhance your own backyard, large or small, for desirable wildlife. Leader is Pennsbury Land Trust president and biologist Karen Travers.

Saturday, April 18; 10:00-12:00 noon. Meet at Pennsbury Township Building on Route 1.

Session II — Bucktoe Creek Preserve

Visit a private 285-acre property in Kennett Square along the scenic Bucktoe Creek where the landscape is being restored. Director of the Bucktoe Creek Preserve, William Ryan will offer some practical ecological restoration techniques you can apply to you own property.

Saturday, May 9; 2-4:30 pm. Meet at Bucktoe Creek Preserve or at Pennsbury Township building to carpool. Directions will be provided.

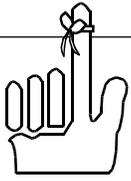
Session III — Tour of Local Small Ecological Gardens

Visit 2-3 small local properties that have incorporated native plants to enhance wildlife habitats. Landowners will share their challenges as well as successes with woodlands, wetlands, ponds, and rain gardens. Take home a native plant and many ideas for you own property.

Sunday, May 17; 1:00-4:30 pm. Directions to be provided.

Sessions are free for members of Pennsbury or Kennett Land Trusts and \$5 for others, payable on date of program. Pre registration is required.

To register for any or all of the above programs call the Pennsbury Land Trust, 610-388-7401 with name(s), phone number, address, and number of people you are registering. You can also register by email – krntrvers@yahoo.com.



Pennsbury Township Calendar

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Supervisors meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Harris Room of the Township Building.

The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Township Building.

SCHOOL BOARD

Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board meets the 3rd Monday of the month. See locations in calendar. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Building tours will be provided at 6:30 pm and student demonstrations from 7 to 7:30

sara corbishley, editor

DECEMBER 2008

26 Friday — Christmas Tree Recycling at the Township Building begins.

JANUARY 2009

5 Monday, 7:00 pm — Township Supervisors Organizational Meeting. Township Building.

6 Tuesday, 7:00 pm — Township Auditors Organizational Meeting. Township Building.

13 Tuesday, 7:00 pm — Township Planning Commission Organizational Meeting. Township Building.

26 Monday, 7:30 pm — School Board Meeting. Unionville Elementary School, Cafeteria.

30 Friday — Christmas Tree Recycling ends.

31 Saturday, 8 am to noon — Electronics Recycling at SECCRA landfill on Rt. 926 in Chatham, more info at [www:SECCRA.org](http://www.SECCRA.org)

FEBRUARY 2009

17 Tuesday, 7:30 pm — Winter Lecture Series, Chadds Ford Historical Society Barn Visitors Center on Creek Rd. Victoria Wyeth will give an illustrated talk about the art of the Wyeths.

23 Monday, 7:30 pm — School Board Meeting. Charles F. Patton Middle school, Auditorium.

MARCH 2009

3 Tuesday, 7:30 pm — Winter Lecture Series, Chadds Ford Historical So-

ciety Barn Visitors Center on Creek Rd. Speaker to be announced, information at www.chaddsfordhistory.org.

16 Monday, 7:30 pm — School Board Meeting. Unionville High School, LGI room.

17 Tuesday, 7:30 pm — Winter Lecture Series, Chadds Ford Historical Society Barn Visitors Center on Creek Rd. Speaker to be announced.

19 Thursday, 7:30 pm — Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting. Township Building. Refreshments served. Speaker to be announced.

25 Wednesday, 7:30 pm — Town Watch Annual Meeting. Chaddsford Winery. Speaker will be Trooper Monthie from the Avondale Barracks.

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