

PENNSBURY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Smith. Present: Dennis Smith, Bob Crandell, Jim Ware, Corinne Murphy, Jeff Streitell and Kathleen Howley. The minutes of February 13, 2017 were approved as amended.

Save our Water – representatives Dave Yake and Marion Waggoner were present to give members an update on their negotiations with Artisan Water Company and New Garden Township. Jim Ware noted that Pennsbury wants to make sure we have our community covered as to protecting our water resources and want to learn from their experience. What is it that we should be thinking about putting into place as a possible ordinance for this protection. Corinne Murphy is in the process of contacting other townships on existing regulations addressing water quality/quantity, and will report at the next meeting on March 13th.

Marion Waggoner gave a synopsis of their experience with PADep as well as the Delaware River Basin Authority which is a federal agency. Artisan Water wants to expand their service in New Garden Township by drilling additional wells and exporting some of that water into Delaware. They believe this is a long term business decision in order to expand their company. Save our Water group had success in getting DVRB's attention to the fact that Artisan did not follow proper protocol and this was brought out in several hearings held by DVRB. Their opinion is that DEP did not do due diligence in reviewing Artisan's application. In the hearings, State Senator Dinniman proved to be a very helpful advocate for them. Both Dave Yake and Marion Waggoner suggests Pennsbury should have an ordinance in place before any potential application is made by a company to drill and export water. Also, if appropriate, make sure water is properly priced. It was reported that New Garden Township has a lawsuit pending against Artisan Water claiming they have not met township ordinances. DVRB had ruled that all state and local regulations must be followed before issuing a permit for water drilling or exportation. Dave Yake also suggested when drafting an ordinance, a professional geologist should be consulted and require modeling as a part of proper submission in the application process.

Members thanked Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Yake for attending. Their information supplied was very helpful to the group.

The 2016 Annual Planning Commission Report drafted by Jeff Streitell was unanimously approved by members and will be sent onto the supervisors by March 1st.

The next PC meeting will be March 13th at which time a discussion will continue on water resource regulations. Mr. Smith also noted that on future agendas will be the proposed update of the Flood Plain Regulations addressing recent update by FEMA as well as a proposed plan titled 'Walkable Chadds Ford'.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Kathleen Howley, Recording Secretary