

April 12, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of Pennsburg Township held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the township building. Supervisors Fenton, McIntyre, Scottoline and Township Manager Kathleen Howley were present and the minutes of March 15, 2017 were approved as submitted.

Manager Kathleen Howley reported the following:

1. Service Announcements – Yard Sale will be held in the township park on Saturday, April 22nd from 9-2 p.m. Rain date is April 29th. Free shredding event will be held in the township building parking lot on April 29th from 9 until noon. Clean up day is also April 29th and there will be dumpsters at the building for resident large item disposal starting April 27th to April 29th.
2. John Theilacker from the Brandywine Conservancy was present and talked about the importance of riparian buffers and the restoration of these buffers when development occurs. The Conservancy has authored a booklet describing planting and maintenance of buffers which is free to the public and also on their website. Copies of this booklet were left with the township for distribution to the public. This effort has been partially funded by the Penn Foundation. He also thanked the township for their drafting and passing ordinance amendments strengthening regulations for riparian buffers.
3. Ms. Howley stated the upgrade of the railroad crossing on Hickory Hill Road is scheduled to be June/July of this year according to PennDot. Railroad crossings on Fairville Rd as well as Hillendale Rd have been upgraded in the past few years.
4. The construction of a new salt shed has been advertised for bid opening on April 25th at a public meeting at 10 a.m. The bids will be announced and given to Mr. Oeste for review. Bids will be addressed at the supervisor's public meeting on May 17, 2017.
5. The township commissioned Jane Dorchester, historian, to research and document Springdale Farm (former Mendenhall Farm). This report has been received and is on file at the township office. Mrs. Luft, Historic Commission Chairperson, read the report and thought it was thorough and very well done. The farm has been vacant for some time and old structures are slowly disappearing. This farm was a William Penn grant.

Road Department Report – Dave Allen – Ms. Howley read the report. Branch pick up is concluding this week and snow plows and spreaders are being repaired and ready for storage. Pipe and inlets for summer drainage project has been ordered and the salt shed bid package has been advertised for opening on April 25th. The Co-op has opened bids and awarded them for the following: Stone-Martin Limestone, wearing course-Allan Myers, road oil-AMS, fuel oil-Superior Plus Energy, line painting-Alpha Space Control.

Township Engineer Matt Houtmann reported he met with Tom Spano and his contractor regarding the completion of the road work for Grey Dove Drive. This work is to be completed by April 28th. Mr. Spano was to receive a quote from his contractor for Mr. Houtmann to review but this has not been received yet. Mr. Houtmann stated time is running out and if the work is not completed by month end, the township will take down the escrow funds and complete the project.

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Mr. Houtmann reported on the work he has done reviewing the flood plain ordinance with regard to the update of FEMA maps. He has reviewed the FEMA consultant remarks regarding our ordinance as well as reviewing it with the Planning Commission. He will organize the revisions and submit to Tom Oeste for his review and comments. This also has to be reviewed by the County Planning Commission. There are minimal substantive changes.

Gosik Road Plans – Matt has completed his review and Mr. Oeste is in the process of completing the review of the easement documents. Mr. Gosik proposed to utilize an existing right-of-way from his property onto Independence Way in order to have a safer access way onto Route 1. The Board unanimously voted to pass a motion to approve this plan contingent upon Mr. Houtmann and Mr. Oeste's issues being satisfied.

Dennis Smith, Planning Commission Chair, reported members have been working with Mr. Houtmann on the flood plain regulations as well as groundwater protection language in our zoning ordinance. He has asked Mr. Oeste to provide guidance as to where these proposed regulations should be – in our zoning ordinance or in a standalone ordinance.

Carol Cantonese was present to talk about a movement to address gerrymandering of state representative districts in the state. The PA state constitution has to be amended in order to address this. She is part of a nonpartisan group encouraging support of State Senate Bill 22, introduced in the state senate to address the problem. She is asking township support for the bill. Mr. Fenton asked Ms. Cantonese to provide written information. She noted that an explanation of the problem will be covered at a meeting held at the Unionville High School on May 11th at 7 p.m. when the "fair districts of PA" group will give a presentation regarding this issue.

Don Courtney was present and advised the Board of an ongoing problem with his neighbor's fence. He believes it was not erected according to our zoning regulations and has been talking to Mr. Oster and Mr. Drumheller about it. The Board is aware of the situation and Mr. Oeste will be contacting Mr. Courtney about it.

A bill list dated April 12, 2017 numbering 17160-17258 and State Fund #374-376 was submitted and approved for payment by the Board. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Howley
Township Manager