

**(196) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP**  
**Virtual Meeting held via Zoom and shown on Youtube 3/26/20**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on Youtube.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Knapp  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner O'Connor  
Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner McKenzie  
Commissioner Sullivan

NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Spangler

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Cummings Township Manager  
Dave Grady Assistant Township Manager  
Bob Scott Township Solicitor  
Charles Catania Township Engineer  
David Splain Chief of Police

**Approval of Minutes (February 13, February 27, March 12)**

Mr. Knapp noted he had not reviewed all the minutes. Mr. Scott stated there was no hurry to approve them, so action was deferred.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions** – Mr. Cummings stated there was 1 vacancy on the EAC.

**Solicitor's Report (Verizon franchise agreement)** – Mr. Scott noted there is nothing new to discuss while noting they have pushed back on a few items.

**Engineer's Report** – Mr. Catania said he thinks we need to do air monitoring during the Summit School demolition and received a quote of \$10,500m from AET. Mr. Knapp moved to authorize AET to perform the air monitoring. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Public Comments** – Mr. Knapp stated there is about a 30 second delay for residents viewing the meeting on YouTube to know to call in for public comments. After waiting a couple of minutes, there were no calls.

**Manager's Report** – Mr. Cummings noted he attended a County meeting on the Corona virus on Tuesday and April is Call 811 month (One Call System) and a resolution was passed at the last meeting. He noted the 2020 Census requests just went out and it is important to respond. He stated the Book It 5K is scheduled on April 25, and the first HHW collection is scheduled on May 2 at the Delco Emergency Services Center. He also noted the CRC stream cleanup has been postponed and the deadline to obtain your Real ID driver's license is October 21.

**Public Safety Committee Report** by Micah Knapp

**Corona Virus** - Mr. Knapp noted the Governor has issued a stay at home order. He said to make sure you wash your hands and do not go out to stores unless you need to. He stated the Board has prepared information on the Corona Virus and to contact the administrative office to be put on your commissioner's list if you are not receiving it. Mr. Knapp stated the upcoming primary election may be delayed but you can vote by submitting your ballot by mail. He advised residents that if they have symptoms, they should call 1-800-PAHealth.

**Coronavirus Emergency Committee** – Mr. Knapp stated the Township has formed an Emergency Committee made up of Board Members, staff, and emergency personnel. He thanked all those who are reporting to work every day to keep others safe.

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Food Insecurity Subcommittee – Mr. Knapp spoke on food insecurity and we need to make sure people do not go without food. He asked we be notified of anyone short on food or is unable to go out to get food.

Agenda Software – Mr. Knapp stated he asked the administration to look into agenda software, so he just wanted to mention this.

**Community Enhancement Committee Report** by Mr. Knapp in Scott Spangler's absence

Multi-municipal electronics recycling and shredding event – Mr. Knapp noted this event will be held May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Rose Tree Park. Mr. Grady stated this is a shredding and electronic waste collection with Media and Swarthmore Boroughs and there is no charge except for TV's and refrigerators. Mr. Cooper stated maybe we should consider holding it in a local area and Mr. Grady noted issues with holding it at the ACME parking lot.

Summer recreation program – Mr. Knapp stated sign up begins April 6 with mail in registration only and he is hoping we will be able to have the program this summer. He noted information is on our website.

**Building and Zoning Committee Report** by Max Cooper

Mr. Cooper stated he hopes it is OK to hold the summer recreation program in June and July. He also thanked Mr. Knapp for his great leadership in addressing the response to the outbreak.

309 Ryanard Road (& 803 Pine Road) – Mr. Cooper summarized the proposal to reverse subdivide a vacant parcel to divide into two properties. He stated there is no action as we are waiting until April for the DCPD review.

Wallingford Realty – Danjolell Subdivision (906-908 S. Providence Road) – Mr. Cooper summarized the proposal to subdivide two parcels into six lots but noted there are issues. He then moved to deny Preliminary/Final Subdivision Approval to the plans entitled, "Record/Site Plan, Wallingford Realty Partners C/O D'Anjolell", consisting of 7 sheets dated October 18, 2018 last revised December 31, 2018, drawn by Catania Engineering Associates (their drawing no. 83668-3) for not complying with the following Sections:

- Section 289-4 (general compliance) in that the plan does not comply with subdivision and zoning requirements as listed below.
- Section 289-7 (c) (3) which limits 4 homes to use an accessway and requires a cul-de-sac for 5 or more homes.
- Section 289-13 A. requiring conformance to zoning (does not comply relative to lots and impervious maximum).
- Section 289-21 C. requiring names of the subdivider.
- Section 300-10 requiring the maximum impervious to be 25% (lots 1 and 2 violate this section).

Mr. Scott noted the applicant wanted to acquire and incorporate a property but could not. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Zoning Hearing Board meeting on April 20 – Mr. Cooper noted these will be the same 3 applications that were to be heard in March. Mr. Scott noted pending legislation to delay timelines on action on zoning and subdivision matters.

**Finance and Administration Committee Report** by Kaitlin McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie noted we will extend the discount period for paying real estate taxes through April 30

Pension Ordinance – Ms. McKenzie noted labor counsel had some questions, so we are not authorizing advertising just yet.

Motion to approve warrant list – Ms. McKenzie noted expenses of \$13,000 to J.D. Eckman for overage costs on Copples Lane, a number of recycling rebates, \$500 to the Clean Water fund for the Summit School review, and \$18,000 to Marino Corporation for the Moore Road sidewalk. Mr. Grady noted work has stopped due to the Governor's order. She referenced expenses for B&L disposal being a fixed monthly amount, but payment to BFI/Republic can change but is expected to be around \$10,000 monthly. She also pointed out the expense for the leaf turner is split with Swarthmore Borough. Mr. Knapp asked about costs for brush removal. Ms. McKenzie then moved to approve the warrant list. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Infrastructure Committee Report** by Matt Sullivan

Moore Road Sidewalk – Mr. Sullivan noted construction paused due to the Governor's order so work may be stopped to beyond June, but asked Mr. Cooper about the waiver process and if it would be OK to continue. Mr. Cooper stated he was not sure but thought it would be OK if workers kept the 6-foot distance but there is a

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concern about sharing tools. There was further discussion on whether a waiver was a good idea. Mr. Scott stated construction is prohibited but some public projects can continue. He also noted the asbestos removal contract was outside of the prohibition so the Board should discuss. Mr. Cooper stated the optics of continuing may be a concern so maybe delay for the time being although noting asbestos removal gear would protect against Covid 19. Mr. Sullivan stated there is an exception for remediation work. After further discussion the Board agreed a couple week delay was proper.

Mr. Sullivan asked if we should close public parks as he saw kids playing on the equipment at NPE and noticed our warning signs have been removed. He suggested to at least put up metal signs. Mr. Garson stated a lot of kids are still playing basketball so maybe we should remove the rims at Sapovits Park. It was felt that we should also ask the school district to remove rims on their property as well. Mr. Cooper stated that if the parks remain open, we should continue to spray the equipment. Mr. Kapp said we are thankful we have Mr. Cooper on the Board as we have implemented precautions early on and have considered possibly closing down the parks. Mr. Dixon stated most of the basketball players are not from the neighborhood and it takes about 6 hours to spray our equipment as well as that at SRS. The Board agreed we should not be cleaning equipment at SRS. Mr. Sullivan stated we should ask the school district to lock all of their playgrounds as we are under a stay at home order and they should take the rims down. The Board also discussed possible closing tennis courts at the school. Mr. Cooper stated he and others were putting together a public service announcement which should be ready tomorrow and we can put it on our website. Mr. Knapp stated maybe we can put a statement out that the State recommends closing all parks, basketball courts and tennis courts and we can regroup on the issue this weekend. Mr. Knapp asked if the Township has authority to close school facilities. Mr. Scott stated he thought we could.

#### **Parks and Open Space Committee Report** by Matt Garson

DCNR Recreation & Conservation grant due April 22 – Mr. Garson stated we previously discussed installing a playground at Summit and he would like to install one there. He stated we can discuss at our April 9 meeting. Mr. Sullivan stated the due date may be pushed back. Mr. Grady noted it would be helpful to know as soon as possible as he will have to discuss proposal with DCNR before submitting. Mr. Garson stated he would like to do a playground, perimeter walk, and lights. He noted people are lukewarm on the amphitheatre but would like to have a snack bar. Ms. McKenzie stated she would like to have a concession building, playground, trail and restroom. After discussion, the Board agreed to have Mr. Grady apply for the bathroom, snack bar, the trail and lighting.

Furness Park – Mr. Garson stated that bids were received but they were high, so the project scope needs to be scaled back. He noted the Parks Commission reviewed and came up with two concepts, both within the bid amount. One is the loop trail from the SEPTA station to Turner Road that does not require an easement. The second is the link trail from the SEPTA station to the corner of Knoll and Turner Roads. He stated it connects to the South Summit neighborhood but requires a bridge and an easement. He knows there were requests for a crosswalk at Pembroke and Westbury Roads, but there are issues with that. Mr. Knapp asked if the owner on the corner of Knoll has been approached about the easement. The Board will discuss April 9 and Mr. Grady is to reach out to the owner relative to granting the easement. Mr. Grady noted the Township did receive an extension until June of 2021 in which to complete the grant project.

#### **Public Works Committee Report** by Robert O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor thanked Mr. Knapp for all his work in responding to the pandemic.

Road resurfacing for 2020 – Mr. O'Connor stated we received the list of roads from Mr. Catania. Mr. Sullivan noted that if we completed all the Aqua Streets, it looks like we would have \$90K remaining. He stated we would be able to do Avondale Road, but it would cost another \$150K to do all the number 1 roads. However, Mr. Catania stated AQUA is planning main replacement work on Mulberry Lane, Parkridge Drive and Possum Hollow Road so deferring on those will allow us to go into the number 2 rated roads. Mr. Knapp stated we should add damages and penalties to the contract for not completing in a timely manner. Ms. McKenzie stated she gets complaints on the condition of Avondale Road. Mr. Sullivan noted we still have streetscape money for Avondale Road.

Mr. Knapp noted Mr. Grady has reached out to I Compass on software to manage the agenda and it would be helpful for the meetings. He said it allows us to share documents with each other, residents and on the website

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and the priced was reduced from \$9k to \$7k. He asked that Mr. Cummings and Mr. Grady be allowed to move forward if they feel it is appropriate. Mr. Cooper asked the cost of Zoom and Mr. Grady stated it is \$15 per month.

Public Comment at end of meeting – Ms. Shawn Jackson Harrington of 518 Washington Avenue called in via Zoom. She stated if the Board is thinking of removing the rims, they should let the residents know ahead of time and the reasons. She inquired about the food committee. Mr. Knapp said their primary concern was to feed kids and use the infrastructure to feed others in need. Ms. Harrington also noted the trash pick up is on Washington Avenue whereas before it was collected from the alleys. She noted debris and trash is dropped on Washington Avenue and asked if anything could be done. Mr. Knapp asked her to call the Township when it occurs.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is the work session on April 9, 2020