

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP –March 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom and shown on YouTube.

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 11, 2021 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp (arrived late)
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner King
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Robert Scott	Solicitor
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

EXCUSED: Chief Splain Police Chief

Mr. Knapp chaired the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25,2021 meeting. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS- Mr. Grady said there is an opening on the EAC committee, along with one other open position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania reported on the Manchester Road Bridge Replacement, and construction will begin in 2023. This project will require a road to be closed and a detour set up. Mr. Catania suggested Mr. Grady contact the County to discuss planning for future sidewalks on Manchester when they do the replacement.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Mr. Knapp arrived.

Covanta/Zero Waste- Mr. Garson read parts of a resolution sent to the Township from the Environmental Advisory Committee regarding the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority's usage of the Covanta waste incinerator. Mr. Bill Silverstein, the Chair of the EAC, highlighted points from the resolution and shared information from the EAC's February meeting. The proposed resolution called for the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority to not extend the current contract, which expires in 2022. The resolution also advocated for a Zero Waste plan. Mr. Silverstein said the EAC sees ending the Covanta contract and zero waste as two issues that go together. Mr. Silverstein shared that Swarthmore had already passed a similar resolution. He suggested the Board consider passing the resolution before May of 2021, as that is when the DCSWA may decide to extend the contract. Multiple commissioners asked to have more information on how the Chester City officials are leaning on this issue. Mr. Silverstein said he would gather that information and discuss further with the EAC at the March 24th meeting.

DCNR- Mr. Garson shared that the parks committee and residents from the neighborhood near Martha Burton Park have offered ideas for the grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' grant program.

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Open- Mr. Garson shared that the Township is waiting to hear if they were awarded the grant for Phase 2 for Furness park grant. He also asked Commissioners to begin thinking of other trails in the Township for possibilities for this grant.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Status of Media Walk development at 310 Wallingford Avenue – Mr. Cooper read a letter submitted from Janelle Berry at 530 Wallingford Avenue regarding a berm on the Media Walk site, which is in the process of development. She is concerned that the berm would limit the amount of available space next to their property. Mr. Catania addressed the concern. He mentioned possibly not removing it completely but modifying it. Mr. Grady said he and Mr. Catania have scheduled a meeting the following week with Ms. Berry to take a more detailed look at it.

March 15th Zoning Hearing Board Cases- Mr. Cooper reported the two cases from the Zoning hearing meeting: that of Scott & Kristin Snyder, 720 E Baltimore Pike, Media requesting a variance from Section 300-20 Side Yards. They are asking for relief from the 60 feet side yard total aggregate to construct an attached garage. Proposed side yard aggregate is 50 feet. This property is Zoned R-2 Residential District. The second case is that of William & Katheen Michael, 746 Windsor Place, Wallingford requesting a variance from Section 300-27 Side yards. They are asking for a reduction of minimum side yard setback from 15 feet to 5 feet and a reduction of aggregate side yard width from 40 feet to 20 feet. This property is Zoned R-3 Residential District.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Live Board Meetings- Ms. McKenzie suggested the Board try to plan meeting in-person for the April 8th meeting, but keep the public comment virtual or call-in. The Board agreed with the plan.

Records Disposal Resolution- Ms. McKenzie read resolution 2021-6 for disposition of records under the Pennsylvania Retention and Disposition Schedule for Municipal Governments. The records include Accounting Records for 2010 through 2012, Bank Statements for 2008 through 2010, Payroll Records for 2006 through 2010, Tax Receipts for 2009 through 2013, and Summer Camp Records from 2011. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass the resolution. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

FEMA/PEMA Grant- Ms. McKenzie reported that the FEMA grant, administered by PEMA, for the flood mitigation project, which includes purchasing and demolishing a property on Glen Road, was awarded to the Township at the end of 2020. She said the grant agreement was finally available. Ms. McKenzie said the home value has increased substantially since the grant application in 2019, and Mr. Grady was going to ask PEMA if additional funding was available.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Aqua Payments- Mr. O'Connor read the offer from Aqua for road resurfacing, which included \$173,000 for the Luckie Lane, Truepenny, Quaint, and Surrey Road areas, and \$151,000 for the Dogwood and Colonial areas. Mr. Catania suggested they accept the offer. Mr. O'Connor made motion to accept the offers. Mr. Knapp seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Road Resurfacing- Mr. O'Connor said the road evaluation matrix had been completed. There was discussion about the list and the timeline regarding specific roads. From the discussion, Commissioner O'Connor asked about compiling a comprehensive evaluation list of all the Township roads. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to authorize going out to bid for the roads affected by the Aqua work in the Colonial and Dogwood lane area and the Bowling Green area. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

2021 Summer Camp- Ms. King provided an update on the summer camp. She said the Township staff is working through the last details to get the final cost and fees for the camp.

Vacant Property Registration- Ms. King introduced the concept of creating a vacant property registration list. Mr. Scott shared that there are companies that manage vacant and foreclosed properties for municipalities. He said the fees are assessed to the property and not the Township.

Media-Smedley Connector Trail- Resolution of Approval- Ms. King made a motion for the Approval of Resolution 2021-7, Pledging Participation in the implementation of the Media Smedley Connector Trail Feasibility Study. Ms. King said this is the Township's general acceptance of the written plan. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Sewer Valuation- Mr. Molloy shared thoughts about having the sewer system professionally valued. Mr. Knapp said the Board had budgeted for the expense. The Board agreed to begin the valuation process. Mr. Grady said he will start getting quotes to start the process.

Watershed Restoration Protection Program Open- Mr. Molloy explained the DCED's Watershed Restoration Protection Program's purpose is to restore and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff. He reported on a list that was compiled as part of the Township's Pollutant Reduction Plan. He asked other Commissioners to contact him if they wanted to add more ideas. There was discussion on how to prioritize the list for the grant. The grant is due May 31st.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Trailer Parking- Mr. Grady shared Media Borough's ordinance on trailer parking. Mr. Knapp suggested an ordinance be drafted but it should include a one-time allowance where residents can call and notify the police of the need for a temporary exception. Mr. Knapp asked Solicitor Scott to draft an ordinance for non-commercial trailer parking for the next meeting.

Baltimore Pike Speed Limit- Mr. Knapp reported that the Township contacted the County, who owns the Penza Tract next to the intersection, and they came out and improved the sight line by cutting down a tree and removing bushes. Chief Splain said he would ask State Troopers to patrol the area for speeders. Mr. Knapp said further evaluations would be performed after the trimming and cutting is completed.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Grady shared the Delco.pa.gov website that had information on COVID-19 testing sites. He also shared the Chesco.org website which has information on the vaccination process. He shared the school lunch program will extend through September 30, 2021 through WSSD. He showed the updated times and location for the county Household Hazardous Waste flyer. Mr. Grady provided an update on the CRC Stream cleanup for Lieper Park. He said there will be a blood drive happening on April 1st at the Township building. He shared that he passed along information for the CHIRP grant which is for the hospitality industry.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting would be on March 25th. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM.