

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP –May 27, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 27, 2021. Legislative meeting:

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Tiffany Griffin	Solicitor (in place of Robert Scott)
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

EXCUSED: Micah Knapp
Stephanie King
Chief Splain

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance Followed by a Moment of Silence for Merv Harris Passing

Mr. Garson announced that Merv Harris had passed away recently. Mr. Harris was a longtime resident and active member of the community. He had served as a Commissioner, a State Representative, and, most recently, was the Chair of the Nether Providence Historical Society. Mr. Garson called for a moment of silence after the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Ronald Reese - 504 East Country Club Road – Mr. Reese read a prepared letter in which he expressed his disagreement with the traffic calming changes being made in Lapidea Hills. He felt there were not any existing issues, so he did not think stop signs and planters were needed. He said they would negatively change the character of the neighborhood. Additionally, he thought the level of communication with the neighborhood was not acceptable. He asked that the Board not do any further work in the neighborhood without first seeing what impact the stop signs would have. Mr. Cooper thanked Mr. Reese for his comments, and he said that he had tried his best to get feedback from the neighborhood through a large email chain, but he said he understands Mr. Reese's comments and will look to improve his communication with the neighborhood in the future. Mr. Reese asked that his letter be included in the minutes.



Public Comment
Letter from Mr. Rees

SOLICITORS REPORT – Tiffany Griffin had nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania said his items would be covered later in the meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Matt Garson

Cameras in Parks- Mr. Garson shared Media Borough's camera policy, which Solicitor Scott had prepared. Mr. Garson asked the Board of Commissioners to review it over the next few weeks and to be prepared to discuss it at the June 24th meeting.

Stop Sign request on Blakeley & Cedar- Mr. Garson shared a request for a four-way stop at Blakely and Cedar Roads, which currently is a two-way stop. Mr. Grady said he and Mr. Catania went out and looked at the location. Mr. Catania said the location warranted a four-way stop and met all the criteria for stop signs. Mr. Garson suggested the Township reach out to the neighbors at the corners to obtain their feedback. Mr. Garson said they will advertise the stop signs at the next meeting.

Trailer Parking Ordinance- Mr. Garson moved to approve Ordinance 823 which amends provisions of Nether Providence Township code for the purpose of regulating the parking of trailers on public streets. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O’Connor

No Parking- Putnam Blvd- Mr. O’Connor asked if someone could go out to Brookhaven Road and see where potential “no parking signs” could go. Mr. O’Connor stated the issues with an RV parking on Putnam Boulevard had been resolved as the resident who complained had emailed him and said “no parking signs” would not be necessary. Mr. Grady suggested the Township could politely ask the resident with the RV to move it.

Road Resurfacing- Removal of Sheffield for Aqua Work- Mr. O’Connor noted that Sheffield Road was being removed from the resurfacing list since Aqua is planning to do work on the road in the next year. The Board discussed possible streets from the wish list to repave in place of Sheffield, but they decided to hold the money and put it back into the Liquid Fuels Fund for other projects or roads for next year.

Streetlight Additions- Criteria- Mr. Grady shared a proposal from Higgins & Sons for streetlights that were requested. Mr. O’Connor said he would like to talk to more neighbors and get an exact location of the streetlights before the Board acts.

Senate Bill 597- Wastewater Asset Management- PUC regulation- Mr. O’Connor shared information on Senate Bill 597 regarding moving wastewater to Pennsylvania Utility Commission regulation as now it is under the Department of Environmental Protection regulation. Mr. Grady shared that the PA Municipal Authorities Association has expressed its strong opposition to it.

Highway Report- Mr. O’Connor read the May highway report and shared that the Public Works Department has done maintenance to recycling bins, signs, potholes, and Township vehicles. They also put up the new backboard at Sapovits Park, finished the gate and fence at Bullens Lane Park, and cut down several dangerous trees at Furness Park.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP)- Hepford Park- Mr. Garson shared proposed plans for the GTRP application for Hepford Park. He stated the grant requires a 15% match. Mr. Garson moved to authorize the Township to apply for the GTRP grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for Hepford Park Rehabilitation. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Delco Skatepark Questions- Mr. Garson shared that the Delco Skatepark Group reached out to him and Mr. Grady and asked if they could survey residents to gauge public interest in skateparks. The Board did not have an issue with the survey.

Furness Park Dedication- Mr. Garson announced that Furness Park would be dedicated on Saturday, June 5th at 7:00 PM. He encouraged everyone to come out for it.

Glen Road Property- Offer Letter – Mr. Garson said the Township would need to provide an offer letter to the owners of 1012 Glen Road, pursuant to a FEMA Grant for Flood Mitigation Purposes. Mr. Garson shared that there is the potential for extra costs such as school taxes, asbestos removal, and other extra demolition costs. Ms. McKenzie asked if the Township could shift the risk back to the buyers, since they are receiving the benefit of this program. Further discussion would be held in Executive Session.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Cooper

Status of Media Walk development at 310 Wallingford Avenue – Mr. Cooper said site work is continuing at the Media Walk development, with several more foundations laid.

Escrow Release #8- Media Walk- Mr. Cooper stated Mr. Catania reviewed and recommends the approval of the release for Escrow #8. Mr. Cooper moved to approve an Escrow Release in the amount of \$10,760.31 to Progressive New Homes. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Schools in Zoning Code- Mr. Cooper shared that Bob Linn, of the Township’s Planning Commission, recommended amending the current zoning codes to allow for the conditional use of schools, which would require the Board’s review if a school were proposed in a location. Mr. Cooper asked that the Board be ready to discuss at the June 24th meeting.

Fee Schedule Updates- Mr. Cooper stated the Fee schedule was last updated in 2008 and updates should be made to make the schedule simpler. He shared the new fee schedule for the Board to look over. Changes included creating flat percentages for certain permits and an increase in the Use and Occupancy fee from \$75 to \$100. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-15 for a new fee schedule. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Restatement- Ms. McKenzie said she had no updates at this point.

ARA Funds- Ms. McKenzie shared that the American Rescue Act funds would come in two parts: \$680,000.00 soon and another \$680,000.00 in 2022. Mr. Grady shared a list of eligible uses including storm sewer and sanitary sewer projects and broadband internet improvements. The funds cannot be used for roads, bridges, or sidewalks. Ms. McKenzie asked if Mr. Catania could begin compiling a list of stormwater and sewer management projects in the Township that the Board could use for consideration.

ARA PLGIT Account- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to open a PLGIT bank account for the purpose of holding the American Rescue Act funds. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Warrant List- Ms. McKenzie shared items on the warrant list. Ms. McKenzie moved to approve the Warrant List in the following amounts:

A/P Procurement Card List Report Total: \$61,413.93

A/P Bills List Report Total: \$155,302.02

A/P Interim Funds Report Total: \$503,440.40

Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Matthew Garson

2021 Summer Camp Registration Open- Mr. Garson reported that five spots were still available and that camp counselors were still needed. Anyone 16 years of age or older can apply and the application is available on the Township website.

Comprehensive Planning- Mr. Garson said the Township should consider updating the Comprehensive Plan. He noted the past plan was prepared with the Boroughs of Swarthmore, Rutledge, and Rose Valley, and the Township should consider if it wants to pursue the plan individually or with the other municipalities. Mr. Garson shared there are benefits to consider for a multi-municipal approach, since the municipalities share the same school district. For example, it may be easier to obtain grant funding, share equipment, and share consultant fees. He said there are downsides to the multi-municipal approach, including inefficiencies in getting large groups of people from multiple municipalities together, differences within the geographic makeup of the municipalities, and Nether Providence would be the largest municipality in group. Additionally, two members of the Planning Commission recommended that the Township proceed individually. The Board decided that it would be more efficient and cost-effective to work individually.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Watershed Restoration Protection Program Open- Mr. Catania shared estimates for the project for water quality improvements in the Sproul Estates area. Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 for the WRPP Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

E. Rose Valley Tree Quote Approval- Mr. Molloy shared that several trees need to be removed for the E. Rose Valley walkway project. Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the tree quote for the East Valley Road Sidewalk Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project- Mr. Molloy said the bids for the East Possum Hollow sidewalk project will be opened on June 10th.

MTF Grant Round Open- Mr. Molloy noted the Board will likely apply for additional funding for the Providence Road sidewalk. He said the Board can move on this at the June or July Meetings.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady shared the locations and dates of vaccination sites which could be found at www.delcopa.gov/vax. He said Delaware County has a vaccine program for the homebound and to call 484-276-2100 for registration and information. Mr. Grady shared information from the Senior Community Services (SCS) for Zoom seminars from the APRISE Program and for registration and information to call 484-494-3769. The South Media Fire Company would be holding a food truck event and pop-up vaccination clinic on June 4th from 5-8pm. Mr. Grady said there is an upcoming shredding and electronic recycling event scheduled for July 17 at Gouley Park. He said Strath Haven High

School made a request for a Noise Ordinance Variance for their Senior event to allow for noise until midnight instead of 10 PM. Mr. Grady said he granted the noise variance after consulting with Commissioner Garson and seeing a signed letter of approval from many of the neighbors in the affected area. Mr. Grady shared the Delco Health Department will be established in early 2022, which will mean that Delaware County, and not Nether Providence, will now be inspecting food establishments. He said there is a cleanup scheduled at Martha Burton Park on June 19th at 8 AM in preparation for the park dedication on July 31st. The new Township Digital Newsletter will be sent to commissioners tomorrow to pass along to their residents. It will also be on the Township website and Facebook page. He thanked Mona Price for her hard work in creating the newsletter. In honor of Memorial Day, Mr. Grady offered his gratitude to those who lost their lives serving the country.

EAC- Mr. Molloy added the EAC report. He stated the Resolution that was around the Covanta situation was part of the EAC Zero Waste initiative. The EAC has come up with a few initiatives that they are working on and will present at a later date, including curbside composting, and solarization.

Mr. Garson said the next meeting would be the Legislative meeting on June 24th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:45 PM.

Nether Providence Township Board of Commissioners
May 27, 2021
Public Comments - Ronald Reese

Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak. We are Sheila and Ron Reese and have resided at 504 E. Country Club Lane in Lapidea Hills for 27 years. We are asking the Commissioners to consider three items: 1- close the back entrance to The Springhaven Club to general traffic; 2- pause any further traffic mitigation measures in Lapidea Hills; and 3- improve your communication process for ordinances.

During the past nine months our neighbor and Commissioner Max Cooper initiated email conversations in response to complaints of increased speeding in the neighborhood, thought primarily to be drivers entering and exiting the back entrance at The Springhaven Club. Many ideas were exchanged, and the conversation left off during the winter with the suggestion of a traffic study and possible remediations to be taken under advisement.

We commented in several emails that Lapidea Hills should not be asked to make neighborhood changes to mitigate risk created by Springhaven's traffic flow. The rear entrance to the Club should be closed except for emergency and service vehicles. This would reduce traffic flow and enhance neighborhood safety. We are not convinced the Township has sufficiently explored this solution.

The Township then passed an ordinance on May 13 to install multiple stop signs in Lapidea Hills after months of no communication with the neighbors. There was no general notification from the Township of the proposed ordinance, and therefore no opportunity to comment and suggest changes. Where was the common courtesy or common sense in that process? The stop sign in front of our home was placed explicitly where we said it was not warranted and was not wanted. We are frustrated and disappointed by the lack of communication and openness in working with all the neighbors to develop this plan before significantly altering the character of our neighborhood.

Further, on May 18th Mr. Cooper emailed a drawing from Catania Engineering with possible additions of planters, signage, and striping in the neighborhood. We are opposed to these changes and think they take away much of the character that makes the neighborhood so desirable. We suggest the Township pause at this point to evaluate the effectiveness of the new stop signs prior to implementing any additional changes.

Three items if you want to serve our neighborhood more effectively:

- 1-close the back entrance to Springhaven;
- 2-pause any additional traffic mitigation changes in Lapidea Hills; and
- 3-improve how you communicate pending ordinances to Township residents.

Thank you for your time.