

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – March 14, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2024—Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Henry
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner O’Connor
Commissioner Carbone

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Robert Scott	Township Solicitor
Dave Splain	Police Chief
Maureen Feyas	Assistant Manager
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

EXCUSED:

Commissioner McKenzie

2 members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting. He announced that the Executive Session would be held after the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Hanson- Rosewood Lane:

He shared ongoing safety concerns on West Rose Valley and Rosewood Lane for pedestrians and drivers. A speed study demonstrated there is a speeding issue on W. Rose Valley Road. He thanked Commissioner Carbone for meeting with him and the neighbors. He asked how the Township prioritized where sidewalks are needed. Mr. Garson said a sidewalk study was done several years ago for the whole Township, and he said Providence Rd is a priority as of now, but he said the Board will continue to look for grants that fit West Rose Valley. Ms. Carbone said she spoke to residents on both sides of Rosewood and got different responses. She said some preferred a crosswalk at Rosewood Lane and W. Rose Valley Road, but she said several residents on W. Rose Valley Road were concerned that their side and rear yards would continue to be illegally used as a cut-through for pedestrians to Engle Road. Mr. Grady followed up to explain that a Walkable Wallingford committee was formed in 2008 to study pedestrian safety in the Township. He said this plan generated a priority list which the Board has used as a basis for applying for sidewalk grants. He said they are currently looking into a grant to help with reprioritizing the existing needs since several of the sidewalk priorities have been completed.

Johnathan Behr - W. Rose Valley Road:

He said he and other residents who would be impacted by this were not aware of the discussions and came to get updated and join the discussion.

Committee Openings- Parks, Shade Tree, and EAC – Mr. Garson said there were openings on the Parks Commission, Shade Tree Commission, and Environmental Advisory Commission.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024 meeting. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Government Relations Report- Max Cooper

RACP Resolution – Phase II – He said the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township hereby approves the Summit Site Redevelopment Project Phase II, supported by a RACP grant in the remaining amount of \$178,955, out of a total of \$500,000, with Interim Financing to be provided by the Township for \$178,955, to be held in The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) with a match in the amount of up to \$271,045.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve resolution 2024-3. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Leiper Smedley Trail Extension Feasibility Study Request for Proposals – Mr. Cooper said the Township is soliciting proposals for the feasibility study of the extension of the Leiper-Smedley Trail south to eventually connect with the East Coast Green Way network along route 291. This is being funded by the County, and the Township is partnering with Swarthmore Borough. Mr. Cooper made a motion to advertise the RFP. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mr. Garson thanked Swarthmore Borough for their collaboration.

Parks & Open Space Committee- Beth Henry

Furness Park Phase II Bids Due March 29th – She said Phase II of the project is out for bid, and bids are due March 29th. Bid information can be found on the PennBid website.

Furness – Kudzu Removal – Volunteer Event – She said the Township, in conjunction with the Parks Commission and ArcheWild Ecological Restoration, will be hosting a kudzu removal event. There will be a virtual information session on March 23rd at 11 AM on Zoom, and the outdoor event will take place on April 20th at 9 AM.

Sapovits Park – Quote for Low-Rise Bleachers, Basketball hoop, New Swings – Ms. Henry said as part of the DCNR grant for Sapovits Park, the Township is purchasing low-rise bleachers, a new basketball hoop for the lower court, and new swings. The Township obtained a quote from COSTARS vendor, Recreation Resource, for \$10,910. Ms. Henry made a motion to accept the quote, for \$10,910. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Sapovits Park – Pickleball/Half Court Change Order – Ms. Henry said the Township has been in discussions with the Delco Dills pickleball group about finding a location for pickleball courts. The idea was proposed to expand the half-court basketball area in the lower part of the park to allow for two pickleball courts. A new basketball hoop would be installed, and it could be a shared space. The estimated cost is about \$40,000. This would require a change order for the additional paving.

Paving Original Court	\$11,600 (bid)
Additional Area	\$18,700 (change order)
Acrylic Coating (materials only)	\$5,000 (bid for materials)
Basketball Backboard	\$4,000 (Costars)
Miscellaneous Material	<u>\$1,000 (estimate)</u>
TOTAL	\$40,300

Mr. Cooper asked about parking. Mr. Garson said there is parking on Anderson Street and Prichard Lane. Ms. Henry made a motion to approve the \$18,700 change order with Paoella. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Ms. Henry made a motion to approve the additional costs in total of \$40,300. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Gouley – Land Use Agreement – She said the Township, Nether United Soccer, and Swarthmore Recreation Association have tentatively agreed to terms of a land use agreement for the turf field to be installed at Gouley Park. The agreement outlines the usage parameters for the organizations and the amount of funding that each organization will provide. Nether United Soccer and Swarthmore Recreation Association are each providing \$135,000, and the Township will provide \$170,000 in grant funding. Ms. Henry made a motion to execute the usage parameters agreement between the Township, Nether United Soccer, and Swarthmore Recreation Association. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Public Safety Committee Report – Matt Garson

Crosswalk Analysis – Manchester/Emerald and W. Rose Valley/Rosewood – Mr. Garson said the Township took advantage of PennDOT’s free Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to help evaluate two intersections.

- W. Rose Valley/Rosewood – this is an area that pedestrians (students) will use to cross to walk down W. Rose Valley Road to Engle Road to get up to the High School. The LTAP engineer said a crosswalk could improve safety there. The Township Engineer has reviewed the report and has determined that if the Public Works Department were to install the crosswalk, the cost would be about \$3,000 in materials. Mr. Garson suggested Mr. Hanson and Mr. Behr, who both attended for public comment, speak to each other since they have different ideas for the intersection.
- Manchester/Emerald – the LTAP engineer also looked at this intersection and determined that a crosswalk could be installed. The Township Engineer still needs to look at this in detail.

Speed Limit Reduction Request – W. Rose Valley Road – Resubmit – He said last year, the Township requested that the speed limit be reduced on W. Rose Valley Road. Although this request was denied, the residents in the area would like to try again. We may point to recent safety studies about speed and pedestrian safety. He said the Township also will see if Representative Krueger and Senator Kane can support it. Mr. Garson made a motion to resubmit to PennDOT to reduce the speed limit on West Rose Valley from 35 to 30. Ms. Henry Seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

ADA Ramps on State Routes – He said PennDOT is going to be coming in to install ADA ramps in these locations

- Providence Road (SR 0252) & Chester Road (SR 0320)/Harvey Road – propose ADA ramps for existing marked crosswalks for this intersection
- Providence Road (SR 0252) & Leslie Lane/Swarthmore Court – propose one (1) ADA ramp for existing marked crosswalk for this intersection (on side where sidewalk approaches intersection) – previous coordination with Township requested this marked crosswalk remain
- Providence Road (SR 0252) & Hickory Lane – no change – previous coordination with Township requested this marked crosswalk remain
- Providence Road (SR 0252) & Brookhaven Road (SR 3003) – propose four (4) ADA ramps for existing marked crosswalks on northern and eastern legs and ban southern crossing of SR 0252
- Providence Road (SR 0252) & Chatham Place – propose one (1) ADA ramp for existing northern marked crosswalk of SR 0252 (on side where there is existing sidewalk) – previous coordination with Township requested this marked crosswalk remain
- Rogers Lane (SR 2012) & Avonbrook Road – propose one (1) ADA ramp for existing northern marked crosswalk of SR 2012 (on side where there is existing sidewalk), remove existing marked southern crosswalk – previous coordination with Township requested at least one marked crosswalk remain
- Rogers Lane (SR 2012) & Smedley-Leiper Trail – propose two (2) ADA ramps for existing marked crosswalk for trail crossing of SR 2012
- Chestnut Parkway (SR 3013) & Blakeley Road – propose ADA ramps for eastern crossing of SR 3013 (for bus stop access), ban western crossing of SR 3013
- Chestnut Parkway (SR 3013) & Ryanard Road – propose ADA ramps for western crossing of SR 3013 (for bus stop access), ban eastern crossing of SR 3013
- Chestnut Parkway (SR 3013) & Media Parkway – propose ADA ramps for western crossing of SR 3013 (for bus stop access), ban eastern crossing of SR 3013
- Chestnut Parkway (SR 3013)/Waterville Road (SR 3013) & Hastings Avenue – propose banned crossings of SR 3013

Mr. Grady said the Township discussed Waterville and Brookhaven Road with PennDOT, as PennDOT was thinking of removing the crossings there. He said the Township would like to keep the crosswalks at that location.

Motion to Advertise Bids for Providence Road Sidewalk – Mr. Garson said the Township has addressed most of the right-of-way and easement issues, so the highway occupancy permit has been resubmitted to PennDOT. The Township is ready to put the project out to bid, as TPD Engineering is confident there will not be any significant changes after the PennDOT review. Mr. Garson made a motion to advertise for bids for the Providence Road sidewalk. Ms. Henry seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Finance and Administration – Matt Garson

TD Signers Ratify – as noted at the last meeting, Township signatory Anne Marie Cooke has retired, and Ryan McClellan has replaced her. Mr. Garson made a motion to remove Anne Marie Cooke as a signatory and replace her with Ryan McClellan. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Shaina Barnes

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant - She said this is a grant opportunity for watershed improvements. The Township Engineer has recommended stream bank restoration since it offers the highest pollutant reduction plan credits. The Board appeared to be supportive of an application for Houston Park. We can request up to \$250,000, which requires a 50% match. Ms. Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-4 to request a match of \$250,000 for Houston Park streambank restoration through the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund program. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Reviewing Plastic Bag Ban – Matt Garson received a concern from a resident about the recent plastic bag ban, and he shared an article, which was distributed to the Board, and the resident asked the Board to consider repealing it. The article was published through Fox News, and it was called *Why Plastic Bag Bans Fail*. Mr. Garson explained the process the Township took to make this decision, and he asked Ms. Barnes to ask the EAC to give feedback on this.

Several Commissioners noted they had not received complaints. Mr. Garson said he feels the ban may help with pollution reduction.

Forrest St – Low Volume Road Grant Amendment – Ms. Barnes said the drainage and water quality project on Forrest Street has been completed, and the Township has submitted final reports. The County Conservation District has additional funding available, and they are allowing the Township to claim costs for labor. The grant amount is being increased from \$38,900 to \$53,864 and a time extension is needed through April 30, 2024. The project is completed, but the Conservation District will approve it at their April 4th meeting. Ms. Barnes made a motion to approve the amendment of the grant amount to \$53,864 and the contract end date to April 30, 2024. Mr. O’Connor seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding Event – 3/23 at SHHS – The Township and the Boroughs of Swarthmore and Media are hosting an electronics recycling and paper shredding event at Strath Haven High School on March 23rd from 9 AM to 1 PM. Most electronics are free, but there are fees for certain items.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – Mr. O’Connor

Mechanic Lift at PWD Garage – He said the original plan for the mechanic’s lift in the soon-to-be-demolished portion of the garage was to move it to the new wing. However, the inspector said that, due to its age, he was not comfortable certifying it in the new garage. It is from 2005, and it is nearing the end of its useful life. It may make sense to install a new lift. Carl Schaefer obtained three quotes, and the lowest price was \$24,340.00 through “Don Parker Sales”, a COSTARS vendor. This may have to come out of the garage loan or the General Fund balance. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to accept the low price of \$24,340. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Electric Change Orders - Mr. O’Connor said there were two small change orders related to the running of wires and equipment for the fire alarm system in the garage. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to the two change orders, totaling \$1,106.68 with CMSE Electric. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

CDBG Paving Bids are Due March 20th – He said the Community Development Block Grant paving project quotes are due March 20th, and bidding will take place on the PennBid platform.

Building and Zoning Committee Report- Candice Carbone

Zoning Hearing Board- 205 Chestnut Parkway; 414 New Jersey Avenue; 927 S. Providence – Subdivisions at Planning Commission

- Continued - Application of Soma Gopala Rao Paravate 927 South Providence Rd, Proposed subdivision of existing lot into additional two additional lots.
- Application of Eske Development, 414 New Jersey Ave. Existing is a vacant lot with remnants of a parking area. Proposed is 10 single-family semi-detached houses and 1 single detached house.
- Swan Real Estate Investments, LLC, 205 Chestnut Parkway, Proposed subdivision of an existing parcel of land into 2 lots for single-family dwellings. The existing house on lot 1 is to remain.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said there is Property Tax Rebate through the state available on the Township’s website. He said there is an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Event at the Emergency Services Training Center in Sharon Hill and registration is required. He said the CRC Streams Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday March 16th, and one of the regional locations is in Smedley Park; He said there is a Bird Town Event on April 20th in Houston Park. The Public Works Department garage is open for yard waste on March 16th from 8 AM to noon. There is a Bulk Trash Event on March 30th at South Media Fire Company and at Hepford Park. He said mulch orders are now being accepted. The 2024 Summer Camp Registration Starts on April 1st.

Mr. Garson said the next meeting is on March 28, 2024. The meeting was adjourned around 8:50 PM.