

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – April 11, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 11, 2024—Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
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 Barnes
Commissioner Henry
Commissioner O'Connor

No members of the public were in attendance.

Mrs. McKenzie chaired the meeting. She announced that the Executive Session would be held after the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

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

Approval of Minutes – Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 3-0 with Mr. Garson abstaining.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Government Relations Report- Max Cooper

Leiper Smedley Trail Extension Feasibility Study Request for Proposals – Mr. Cooper said the Leiper Smedley Trail Extension Feasibility Study – Proposals Received – the Township received two proposals for the Leiper Smedley Trail Feasibility Study. Traffic Planning and Design Inc., (TPD) was the low bidder with a proposal of \$74,581.67. They are estimating a 7-month process. Remington Vernick was the other interested engineering firm with a bid of \$148,000 and an estimated 12-month process. This is a county-granted-funded project, and the Township was awarded \$75,000 for this project. Mr. Cooper made a motion to accept the TPD bid, and Mr. Garson seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Parks & Open Space Committee- Kait McKenzie

Furness – Kudzu Removal - In-person 4/20 – She said the Township, along with ArcheWild Environmental, will be hosting a kudzu removal event in Furness Park, and volunteers are needed. A sign-up link is available on the website. The event will go from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, April 20th.

Use of Hepford Park for Baseball Camp by Private Organization – Ms. McKenzie said a private, for-profit organization has approached Nether Swarthmore Baseball about using Houston Park for a baseball tournament, and the NSB would receive a portion of the tournament entrance fees. Additionally, the organization will open registration a week early exclusively for Nether Providence residents. The Board discussed this request specifically and also discussed the overall concept of private entities using public parks. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the use of Hepford Baseball fields by E.L.I. for the summer of 2024. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Public Safety Committee Report – Matthew Garson

Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Award – Pedestrian Crossings near WES – Contract – He said as noted at the last meeting, the Township was awarded funding through the DCED’s Multimodal Transportation Fund program. Solicitor Scott has reviewed the contract, and he has no concerns. The project will need to be rescope to include only one crossing – either at Chatham Place and Providence Road or at Kershaw Road and Brookhaven Road. Lastly, a consultant will need to be chosen, unless the Township Engineer is used. Mr. Catania suggested obtaining a signal expert. The Board discussed getting proposals from Traffic Planning and Design as well as Albert Federico Consulting. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the contract with DCED and the Township for a pedestrian crossing signal at Kershaw Road and Brookhaven Road. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Rose Valley Road Speed Limit Reduction Approval – Mr. Garson said as noted at a past meeting, the Township requested that the speed limit on East and West Rose Valley Road be reduced to 30 mph. Although this request was denied in 2023, PennDOT ultimately agreed with the recent request. The Township is responsible for installing the speed limit signage and will do so once PennDOT instructs the Township.

Finance and Administration – Kait McKenzie

First Quarter Financial Update- Mr. Grady provided a first quarter financial report. He said that revenues are on track, and real estate taxes are already over 90% received. He said expenses are generally on track. There are some higher overtime costs in Public Works due to the winter storms, but this should level off throughout the year. There were no significant unbudgeted expenses.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Kait McKenzie

Summer Camp Registration Beginning – She said summer camp registration has begun. Information is available on the website. Camp counselors and volunteers are still needed. Please contact Maureen Feyas if you are interested in being a counselor or volunteer.

Arbor Day Proclamation – Ms. McKenzie said the 2024 Arbor Day Proclamation will signify the Township’s annual observance dedicated to planting and caring for trees, promoting environmental awareness and conservation efforts worldwide. Ms. McKenzie read a proclamation declaring April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – Kait McKenzie

Township Paving Program Update – She said the township’s paving contractor, AF Damon is ready to begin the paving program soon. PennDOT is waiting for the County aid to be approved before it issues the Township’s approval. The Township Engineer has provided all of the required documents to PennDOT. The Township has been in touch with the County to ask them to approve the County Aid. All municipalities are waiting for this approval. Commissioner Carbone asked to add a road to the planned paving program: Waterford Way from Blue Hill to Kent. Mr. Catania said that section was rated as fair to poor. Ms. Carbone made a motion to approve the addition to the paving program of Waterford Way from Kent Road to Blue Hill Road in an estimated amount of \$17,000. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Building and Zoning Committee Report- Candice Carbone

414 New Jersey Avenue – She said the 414 New Jersey Avenue final subdivision plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. This plan will come before the Board on April 28th.

Zoning Hearing Board Agenda – MS. Carbone said there are 2 applications on the agenda: a residential application for 17 Green Valley Rd seeking four variances, and The Springhaven Club for a single variance for netting/fencing exceeding 6’ in height.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said there is an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Event at the Emergency Services Training Center in Sharon Hill and registration is required. He said there is a Bird Town Event on April 20th in Houston Park for a Bird walk starting at 8:00 am, which will be right before the kudzu clean up at Furness Park at 9:00 AM. The Helen

Kate Furness Free Library is hosting a Jazz and on the Stacks on April 18th, 7-9 PM. Representative Krueger and Senator Kane are holding a Pet Expo for pets to get vaccinated and microchipped. The event will be held at Upland Park on April 13th from 10 am- 3 pm. The Leiper house will be opening again for tours in the Spring. Staff “Thank You’s” go to the Police Department for showing WES students around the station and the cars. PWD- Carl Schaefer for leading the Hepford Park project. For administration: a thank you to Maureen for solving an IT issue that even the IT company was struggling with.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on April 25th, 2024. The meeting was adjourned around 8:00 PM.