

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – April 25, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 25, 2024—Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED:

Commissioner Henry

30 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.

Eagle Scout Project Proposal- From Troop 277 Jack Gainey and Frankie Griffin shared a proposal for a potential Eagle Scout project at Leiper Park. They proposed 2 pavillions, 2 benches, and 1 fire pit. They said if the potential project is approved they would start in June. Ms. McKenzie asked them to talk and share this proposal with the Townships Park committee and see if they can help.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Troop 605 was in attendance to obtain their Merit Badges.

Committee Openings- Parks, Shade Tree, and EAC – Mrs. McKenzie made a motion to appoint Dan Denner to the Environmental Advisory Commission board. Mr O'Connor seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joseph Harper - 428 Washington Ave- He came to get clarification on renovations for Sapovits Park playground and field. He thanked the BOC for the new renovations that are planned. He asked why he had to come to the BOC over the last couple of years to ask for the softball backstop to be rebuilt and was told to be patient while a pickleball court was being made. He shared the history of the men's softball league in South media. He said his community wants to work with the twp so is asking what the next steps are. Ms. McKenaxzie shared that when the board looked into rebuilding the backstop it was a lot more them they expected so they need a grant to help and that it is on the agenda and has been for the last couple of years. Mr. Garson said that they want to cut out a softball field and backdrop there. Mrs. Henry is planning on applying for a grant this July for the Sapovits softball field.

Finton McHugh representing The Spring Haven Country Club as their Lawyer-

He came to present to the Board what they presented to the Zoning board, where they approved the project. Now as the Board is appealing it the Club wants to present the data they had. He said the Country Club members overwhelmingly support the net installation with 98% for it. He said not only the members but also the Strath Haven High School and Swarthmore College use the golf course for their teams and are for it. The club understands the concerns of the height of the net. The Club tried to reduce the height of the net but the data showed a 40 or 60 ft net wouldn't keep a majority of the balls in the range. The club wants to protect its neighbors and its members. He clarified that currently, the club has a "chipping range" NOT a driving range as some residents may think. The nets are a crucial part of the club. Springhaven respectfully asked the Board to defer to the zoning board's decision of approval.

Ms. McKenzie said the issue is an executive session matter and will be discussed after the meeting and thanked Mr. McHugh for coming.

Building and Zoning Committee Report- Candice Carbone

414 New Jersey Avenue – Subdivision Approval Consideration

Mrs. Feyas shared the proposal for a subdivision at 414 New Jersey Ave that the Zoning and Hearing Board approved. The developer is proposing 10 single-family semi-detached dwellings and 1 detached dwelling. The proposal went through preliminary and was approved. The applicant came back with the final submission revised by: the Twp Engineer, Township Planning Commission, Township Shade Tree Commission, Township EAC, and Delaware County Planning Commission, and the applicant has agreed to comply with all the comments from the organizations. Approving the applicant agreed to a donation of sidewalks and other comments. The applicant asked for 2 waivers too.

Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the subdivision at 414 New Jersey Ave conditional on the write-up assistant township manager Feyas provided. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

205 Chestnut Parkway - Subdivision Approval Consideration

A developer is proposing a subdivision to subdivide the property and make it two independent residential lots. One new house and driveway. The duplex already on one lot will stay. Other commissions have reviewed and given comments. The developer asked for two waivers.

Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the subdivision proposal at 205 Chestnut with conditions Mrs. Feyas said. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024 meeting. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0 with Ms. Barnes and Mr. O'Connor abstaining.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Government Relations Report- Max Cooper

NEW ITEM: Congresswoman Scanlon Community Funding Application Open- Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the addition to the agenda to discuss funding projects for a Community Application that the BOC was just made aware of today. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. The board discussed projects that could be used for the grant. Mr. Cooper made a motion to apply for the application for Community Funding for the section of Providence Lane filing the gap south of East Rose Valley Rd to include the engineering fees of the bridge. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Parks & Open Space Committee- Kait McKenzie

Gouley Park – Neighborhood Meeting 4/29 – Mr. Garson said as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance recreational facilities within Nether Providence Township, we are excited to announce a neighborhood meeting to discuss the installation of a synthetic turf field at Gouley Park.

The meeting will take place on Monday, April 29th, at 6:00 PM via Zoom. This virtual gathering will provide an opportunity for neighbors to learn more about the proposed project, ask questions, and share their thoughts and feedback. The installation of a turf field at Gouley Park has the potential to significantly benefit our community by

providing a versatile and durable playing surface for various sports and activities. Additionally, it will increase the accessibility of recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. The funding for this project is being provided through a state grant as well as the Nether United Soccer Association and Swarthmore Recreation Association. More information will be provided at the meeting, but here are several points:

- Work is expected to begin in early May and be completed in September.
- The fields will not have any permanent lighting.
- The upper parking lot is being reconfigured to allow for over 70 parking spaces.
- The fields will be open for public usage when Nether United and SRA are not having programming.

Sapovits Park Work Beginning May 6th – Ms. McKenzie said the water quality/stormwater work in Sapovits Park will be performed by Eagle Contractors, and work will begin May 6th. Residents in the area are being notified of the work. All staging will take place from the Prichard Lane side. Two larger, but dead or dying, trees will be removed, but at least a dozen more will be planted. Once this work is complete, the other recreational improvements can begin.

Public Safety Committee Report – Matthew Garson

Manchester Road Crosswalk – Mr. Garson said this crosswalk is still being reviewed, but it has been determined that a crosswalk could be installed here. Coordination efforts will take place with Upper Providence Township as one side will be in UPT. Discuss whether the Township should there be cost-sharing or should the Township pay for the cost of both ramps.

Review of Luongo Towing Agreement – He said the owner of Luongo Towing has requested an update to the towing agreement fees, as the fees have not been adjusted in close to eight years. As part of this, we are asking for more information to be provided about the types of fees. Luongo's has been a trusted tower for the Township, and we want to make sure all fees are known ahead of time to avoid frustration from people who've had their vehicles towed. Mr. Grady shared what Mr. Luongo officially asked the board to consider reviewing the contract as he wanted to increase rates. Chief said the Police Department has always been happy with Luongo for the many years the Police department used them. The Board asked Mr. Grady to research other towing companies around to see if the fee increase is within reason. As Luongo hasn't increased their fees for 8 years and the Twonship and PD have been happy with their services.

Finance and Administration – Kait McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the Bill's list in the amounts of:

A/P Bills List TOTAL – \$181,458.59

AP Interims List – TOTAL - \$313,061.94

A/P Procurement Card - TOTAL –\$38,976.21

Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Shania Barnes

Summer Camp Registration Beginning – She said Summer camp registration is underway. \$295 for the five-week program, Monday – Thursday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – Robert O'Connor

Township Paving Program Update – Mr. O'Connor said the township had been waiting for the County to approve the County Aid, which it did at last week's council meeting. PennDOT subsequently approved the Township's project, and paving can begin soon. He said the start date from AF Damon is as early as next week.

W. Possum Hollow Road Culvert Replacement – He said the Township Engineer is obtaining quotes for the replacement of the W. Possum Hollow Culvert. The quotes will be available at the meeting. \$65,000 was budgeted for the work. The condition is deteriorating quickly, so there is urgency with the work. Mr. Catania said he reached out to five or six contractors. Two responded back with a couple hundred thousand bids, the lowest being \$260,000. He said he is meeting with two contractors tomorrow to come up with plan B- repairing. He asked the Board to declare this an emergency and allow himself and Mr. Grady to pass the bids process and get quotes. The Board agreed. Mr. Scott said a Resoulution will be ready for the Board to vote on at the next meeting stating this is an emergency situation.

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 on Saturday, May 18th.. Helen Kate Furness Free Library is hosting a food truck event on Friday from 5:50- 7:30 pm. The Lieper house will be opening again for tours in the Spring. Ms. Hewitt will be receiving a lifetime achievement award from the county for her work with Leioer House over the years.

Monday was Earth Day, which is why the Twoship held 2 events in our parks this past weekend. The Kudzu removal at Furness and the Bird walk at Houston Park. Friday is Arbor Day as Certified tree city, hug a tree tomorrow! Delaware county master Garden has a good garden plant sale on Saturday, May 11th from 9-noon at Smedley Park. Delco mosquito program will be testing areas for West Nile disease. Staff “Thank you’s” to Maureen Feyas for helping Mr. Grady write the Managers report today. Jessica Delgrosso for working on the American Rescue Plan Act. Public Works Department for their work on the Hepfrod dugouts this week, Carl Schaffer and John Ellis, although it has been a team effort. Lastly, Thank you to the Police Department for the continued good work.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on May 9th, 2024. The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.