

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – February 9, 2023

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2023. Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Cooper (by Zoom)
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

EXCUSED: Commissioner McKenzie

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Tiffany Griffin	Township Solicitor (in place of Robert Scott)
Chief Splain	Police Chief
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

There were two members of the public in the audience.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

Building and Zoning Committee Report -Marty Molloy

Request for Zoning Change - 424 Wallingford Ave – Mr. Garson said that Ms. Barbara Jacobs and her son-in-law, Maurice McKinney, were present for this topic. Ms. Jacobs noted that the property is commercially-zoned, and she is asking for the Board to consider changing the property to an R-5 residentially-zoned property. She would like to be able to subdivide the property and build a second home on it for her daughter. Mr. Garson explained that the process is that the Board would decide whether or not to send it to the Planning Commission, who would then review it. After the Planning Commission reviewed it and makes a recommendation, the plan would come back to the Board of Commissioners. Solicitor Griffin noted that the adjoining property should also be rezoned from commercial to residential to avoid any spot-zoning issues. Mr. Knapp said it makes sense to align the zoning with the historical use of the properties and to create more of a residential feel along Wallingford Avenue. Mr. Garson made a motion to have the Planning Commission review the change in zoning from commercial to residential for the 424 Wallingford Avenue property and the adjoining property. Mr. Knapp seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Mr. Garson noted that there are openings on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania said the Township received bids for the Forrest Road Low Volume Road project, and he said he would review those with the Township Manager.

Government Relations – Max Cooper

Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting – March 14th 7 PM at WES – Mr. Garson covered the topic since Commissioner Cooper was on Zoom. He said the Township is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan, which evaluates

the existing land use, transportation systems, housing, community facilities and services, nature, and culture of the Township. The Plan projects future trends, establishes a series of goals, and proposes a list of policy and physical recommendations. This will be an opportunity for the public to weigh in on several questions. He said he will be there on March 14th at 7 PM at Wallingford Elementary.

Parks and Open Space Committee -Matt Garson

Gouley Park Field Improvements – He said Township representatives will attend the Swarthmore Recreation Association board meeting on February 15th to discuss the potential improvements to the Gouley Park Field. More details to come after that meeting.

Motion to Accept Quote for Tree Work at Leiper Park – Mr. Garson noted there are four dead trees at the Leiper House property that need to be removed, per an arborist. Unfortunately, this is a large, unbudgeted expense, so it would need to come from the fund balance. The Township obtained three quotes, and the prices ranged from \$21,000 to \$27,300. Mr. Molloy said he is concerned by the number of trees that are being removed throughout the community, and he would like to see a study in the future to determine if there is an underlying issue that is causing damage to the tree system. Mr. Cooper asked if any of the trees are in the PennDOT right-of-way. Mr. Grady noted that the trees appear to be on Township property, but one tree will be removed by PECO as it is in the power lines. Mr. Garson made a motion to accept the quote from Tree State Maintenance in the amount of \$21,000, and Mr. O'Connor seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Hepford Park Baseball Field #3 Improvements Proposal – Mr. Garson noted that NPAA Baseball obtained a quote from Windview Inc. for improvements at Hepford Park, which would include creating baselines from home to 1st, 1st to 2nd, 2nd to 3rd and 3rd to home approximately six feet wide by removing existing vegetation and providing and installing Diamondtex dirt. They would also create a home plate area with a new home plate and new clay as well as build a pitching mound with new rubber and clay. The quote was for \$8,500. He said there was also a quote to create a full arc around the infield, which would be an additional \$8,000, but he noted that Baseball said it was not necessary. Mr. Molloy asked how the Township would fund it, and Mr. Garson said there are funds available in the Parks Capital Fund. Mr. Molloy supported making improvements to Hepford Park, and he commended NPAA for their efforts. Ms. Barnes said she has been very happy with the recent improvements at Hepford. Mr. Garson said NPAA had offered to contribute to the cost. He made a motion to have the Township contribute \$4,250 to NPAA for the field improvements. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

Public Safety Committee -Micah Knapp

Vernon Street – Speed Hump Requests – Mr. Knapp said the Township is still receiving responses. Mr. Knapp said he believes most of the responses have been in favor of the speed humps, and he asked Mr. Grady to confirm. Mr. Grady said there were a few in opposition, with one concerned about drainage. Mr. Knapp said the Township will accept responses through February 20th.

Finance and Administration Committee -Kait McKenzie

Mr. Garson said there were no items to report.

Community, Health, and Environment Report - Shaina Barnes

CRC Streams Cleanup March 25th – Registration Opens 2/10 – Ms. Barnes said the annual Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Stream Cleanup event is happening on March 25th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM, rain or shine. She said they have not announced the locations yet, but last year, for the Township, it was at Leiper Park and Smedley Park.

Electronics Recycling and Shredding March 11th – Ms. Barnes said the Township, along with Media and Swarthmore Boroughs, is hosting an electronics recycling and paper shredding event at Gouley Park, 101 Plush Mill Road, on Saturday, March 11th from 9 AM to 1 PM. She said you can also bring donations for Goodwill. Mr. Knapp asked what items were acceptable. Mr. Grady read a list of items from the Township's website.

Bare Root Tree Program – The Shade Tree Commission prepared an application to the Philadelphia Horticultural Society to obtain bare root trees for the Leiper House and Leiper Park.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee -Robert O'Connor

Motion to Accept Quote for Steel Structure Demo at Public Works Garage – Mr. O'Connor said that as part of the construction of the new bay of the highway garage, the current steel structure will need to be demolished. Linn Architects obtained three quotes, per the PA Procurement Guidelines, and the low quote is from M. Razzi Inc. in the amount of \$14,200. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the bid of M. Razzi Inc. in the amount of \$14,200. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Road Program Out for Bid – Phase I of the 2023 Road Program is out for bid. The list can be found on the website, including the alternates, which would be used if the base bids come in lower than anticipated.

Building and Zoning Committee Report -Marty Molloy

ZHB Agenda February – He said there are two residential cases on the docket for the February 13th meeting. Consideration of change in time period for start of building construction after zoning variance – Mr. Molloy said when a party obtains a zoning variance, they are required to pull a building permit within six months. However, six months is a quick time period, especially with some construction lead times, and some applicants have been unable to apply for permits in that period of time. They would then need to come back before the Zoning Hearing Board to renew their variance. Extending the time period would reduce the need to do that. This is a zoning change, so if the Board agrees with the proposal, it would need to go before the Planning Commission for review. Mr. Molloy made a motion to have the Planning Commission review extending the time period that would allow residents to have zoning variances for longer than six months before obtaining a building permit. Mr. O’Connor seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said Delaware County was hosting pop-up open houses to obtain feedback for the new Delaware County park at the former Don Guanella site. They are at the Chester City Hall on February 21st and the Upper Chi Community Center on February 22nd. The upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Events are listed on the Township website. Registration is required ahead of time. He said the Township has free tickets available at the Township Building for the Delaware River Rink skating passes.

Mr. Garson said the next meeting is on February 23, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 8:10 PM.