

Nether Providence Township - Board of Commissioners (BOC)

Meeting Minutes — May 14, 2026

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT:

- Commissioner Kaitlin McKenzie
- Commissioner Max Cooper
- Commissioner Mike Keller
- Commissioner Beth Henry
- Commissioner Robert O'Connor
- Commissioner Alex Hillemeier

ALSO PRESENT:

- Maureen Feyas, Township Manager
- Robert Scott, Township Solicitor
- David Splain, Police Chief

ABSENT:

- Commissioner Shaina Barnes

Executive Session Note: Announced to be held after the completion of the main meeting.

Police Commendations and Officer of the Year

- **Exceptional Duty Commendation:** Chief Flynn presented the Exceptional Duty Commendation to four distinguished members of the Nether Providence Township Police Department: **Officer Michael Coverdale, Officer William Sweeney, Detective James Irely, and Detective Steven Kilian.**
- *Incident Summary:* On February 8, 2026, the department responded to a critical, high-stakes report of a missing, endangered, and vulnerable elderly woman during a dangerous winter storm. As hours ticked by under freezing weather conditions, the risk to her safety escalated heavily.
- *Action Taken:* The honored patrol officers and detectives launched a seamless, highly coordinated effort. They utilized extensive follow-up witness interviews, exhaustive

surveillance video reviews, inter-agency operational coordination, and specialized technology resources. Through relentless investigative persistence, the team refused to give up until the woman was successfully located, demonstrating standard-setting teamwork and likely saving a life.

2026 Officer of the Year (The Detective Sergeant Raymond L. White Memorial Award): Chief Flynn announced **Officer Robert Brake** as the recipient of the department's highest annual honor, an award deeply rooted in department history and selected entirely by a vote of his fellow peer officers.

- *Background & Career:* Officer Brake was initially brought onto the force as a part-time officer on February 28, 2019. Through his continuous hard work, high-level dedication, and professional commitment, he was promoted to full-time status on January 18, 2021. He currently serves as a Senior Patrol Officer assigned to Squad 4.
- *Merit & Presentation:* Recognized for his outstanding dependability, street leadership, and unwavering commitment to mentoring younger squad officers and assisting shift supervisors daily. The physical certificate was presented to Officer Brake by **Colleen White**, the daughter of Detective Sergeant Raymond L. White, who tragically lost his life on April 10, 1983, while processing a homicide scene.

Public Comment- None

Committee Openings: Reminded residents of ongoing vacancies on the Historical Commission. Commissioners were asked to continue advertising these roles in their ward newsletters.

Solicitor's & Engineer's Reports

- **Solicitor's Report:** No additional updates outside of regular agenda items.
- **Engineer's Report:** Noted a localized roadway contract is expected to begin work next week.

1. Public Safety Committee Report (Max Cooper)

- **a. EMS Updates & Draft Ordinance for Regional EMS:** A draft ordinance has been assembled for the Regional EMS authority. While minor errors (such as outdated committee chair listings) are being finalized, the initial public forum drew ~140 people with highly positive feedback. The Board received a significant amount of specific feedback regarding the authority's chosen name, which remains under evaluation to avoid any political party acronyms.
- **b. Fire Committee:** Standing update only; Chief O'Rourke continues ongoing collaborative discussions across all township firehouses.
- **c. Crosswalk Flashing Lights (Springhaven Rd & Rose Valley Rd):** Sparked by a civic engagement letter from a local Boy Scout working toward his Eagle Scout rank, discussions turned to safety at this dark intersection. Commissioner Cooper proposed

initiating a **Walkable Wallingford 2.0** planning initiative to proactively evaluate, prioritize, and secure grants for township-wide pedestrian safety rather than addressing intersections piece-meal. The original 2009 document is available on the township website.

- President McKenzie suggested perhaps creating a committee to update the Walkable Wallingford plan.
- It was noted that students from Temple helped write the original document. Use of their municipal planning students should be considered.

2. Government Relations Report (Mike Keller)

- **PECO Work:** PECO will be installing a brand-new gas main on Grandview Road between Baltimore Pike and Woodcrest. Construction is slated to start at the end of May 2026 and wrap up by September 2026, resolving a multi-year gas odor issue reported by neighborhood residents.

3. Parks and Open Space Committee Report (Beth Henry)

- **a. Houston Park Streambank Project:** Work has officially begun to restore the stream bank along Beatty Run. Phases 1 and 2 are funded through a DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program grant and will take 1–2 months. Applications for additional grant funding for Phases 3 and 4 are currently underway.
- **b. Furness Park (Kudzu & Invasives Remediation):** The township secured a PECO Green Region Grant to clear invasive plants and reintroduce native species. Managed by Ark Wild Ecological Restoration Company, the multi-phase project launches this month and spans 18 months.

4. Finance and Administration Committee Report (Kaitlin McKenzie)

- **a. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Award:** The township has been successfully awarded a competitive TASA grant to construct a pedestrian sidewalk along the north side of Plush Mill Road (from the Leiper Smedley Trail to the bridge over Crum Creek). It features a brand-new, dedicated pedestrian bridge to be installed safely adjacent to the existing historic stone vehicle bridge.
- **b. COG Resolution:** The Board reviewed Resolution 2026-09 authorizing formal participation in the Delaware County Consortium of Governments to ensure structural documentation is current.
 - **Motion:** To adopt Resolution 2026-09 authorizing Nether Providence Township to participate in the Delaware County Consortium of Governments.
 - **Vote:** Approved 6-0.

5. Community, Health, and Environment Report (Kaitlin McKenzie in absence of Shaina Barnes)

- **a. EAC Updates:** The EAC is organizing an interactive public speaker series focused on community sustainability, with guest speakers scheduled to attend public monthly meetings starting in September.
- **b. Summer Camp:** Registration is officially open for the township summer camp operating at Nether Providence Elementary from June 22 to July 23 (Mondays–Thursdays, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm). Campers are being accepted, alongside volunteer positions for 14-15 year olds, and paid counselor spots for ages 16+.

6. Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Report (Robert O'Connor)

- **Public Works Report:** * Seasonal cleanups and facility upkeep are underway at all township parks, public works vehicles, and municipal buildings.
 - Crews continued addressing storm-water inlet repairs, performing sanitary sewer maintenance, and investigating sewer related concerns throughout the township.
 - Crews rebuilt a failed stormwater inlet on Oak Valley Road that had caused a roadway sinkhole.
 - A cracked concrete stormwater swale on Putnam Boulevard was fully extracted and reconstructed.
 - Sewer joint repairs by a third-party contractor remain ongoing at the Springhaven & Sycamore sinkhole; township crews will backfill and patch the surface as soon as sub-surface infrastructure is secure.
 - Annual leaf composting operations have formally spun up at the township leaf site.

7. Building and Zoning Committee Report (Alex Hillemeier)

- **a. 917 S. Providence Rd Land Development Update:** The owner (Gopala Paravvada) has officially withdrawn the land development application for the personal care home project on the subdivided Holy Trinity Lutheran Church parcel.
- **b. Zoning Hearing Board Update:** The board will convene on Monday, May 18 at 7:30 pm to hear two distinct variance applications:
 1. *36 Green Valley Road (Gan Thompson):* Side-yard setbacks and expansion of a non-conforming structure.
 2. *122 North Providence Road (Sycamore Acquisitions LLC):* Side-yard setbacks.

Manager's Report

- No formal administrative additions or report actions taken.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned to move into Executive Session.
- **Next Session:** Legislative Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026.