

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP**  
**Community Development Committee**  
**January 11, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

**Community Development Committee Members** - Commissioner and Chair Joseph A. Lavallo; Commissioners Kip McFatridge and Kevin Spearing; Paul E. Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement; David Elsier, Director of Public Works

- I. **Moment of Silent Meditation:**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Commissioner and Committee Chair Joseph A. Lavallo.
- IV. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- V. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Lavallo, Commissioners Spearing and McFatridge; Mr. Elsier and Mr. Purtell. Also, present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager; James Hersh, Township Engineer; Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – December 14, 2020: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- VII. **Old Business:**
  - A. Continue discussions on the Architectural Services proposal for Township Building Improvements:
    - The Committee will continue a discussion at the February 8, 2021 meeting.
  - B. Non-agenda item - 548 Davisville Road:
    - Mr. Jerry Kester, resident, explained his concerns regarding a “Stop Work” order that he received for work begun on his property without a permit.
    - Mr. Purtell will continue to assist Mr. Kester in the permit application process.
- VIII. **Land Development/Subdivision** - Nothing to report.
- IX. **New Business:**
  - A. Consider recommending to the Board of Commissioners, the request by David Pflugfelder to allow an accessory structure in the public Right-of-Way at the property located at 202 Madison Road:
    - Mr. Purtell explained that no permits were filed regarding a structure in the public ROW and a front yard setback and discussed details of the Zoning Hearing Board process.
    - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting.
  - B. Montco 2040 Grant discussion:
    - Anton Kuhner, McMahon Associates, lead a discussion on projects that the Board would like to submit that meet the criteria for the 2021 grant application.
    - Commissioner Scull suggested an application for improvements at The Farmstead.
    - Mr. Kuhner, Mr. Candland and Mr. Stasio agreed to hold a meeting with the County to determine which applications would be appropriate and provide feedback to the Commissioners.
    - Commissioners McFatridge and Lockard suggested an application for Warminster Road sidewalks and bridge and discussed safety issues, easements and pedestrian access to the apartment complex.

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- Commissioner Lockard suggested an application for energy efficient improvements at the Township building and an application for work on the Master Trail Plan.
  - The Committee agreed to continue discussions at the February 8, 2021 meeting.
- C. Mill Road Truck Restriction Implementation:
- Mr. Kuhner explained safety concerns and that signage will be added for trucks making the northbound right turn from Route 611 onto Mill Road. A formal request will be submitted to the Turnpike to install signs within their right-of-way that would be in agreement with the Township.
  - Commissioners Spearing and McFatrige discussed truck restriction signage at the Turnpike, beginning at the ramp of southbound Route 611. Mr. Kuhner will follow up on the appropriate signage.
  - The Committee directed Mr. Kuhner to send a formal request letter to PennDOT.

X. **Other Items** - Nothing to report.

XI. **Presentations** - Nothing to report.

XII. **Acceptance and Approval of the following monthly reports for September:**

- A. Code Enforcement Department Reports:
- Commissioner Spearing inquired about credit card payment for permits. Mr. Purtell stated that the Code Department accepts credit card payments, but online payments are currently unavailable.
- B. Public Works Department Report and Recycling Report:
- Commissioner Scull commented about responsible curbside pickup of electronic recycling, scrappers and the permit process. Commissioner McFatrige replied that in-person recycling drop off is a safety hazard at the Public Works yard. Commissioner Spearing suggested a follow up with the Township's recycling consultant regarding businesses involved in scrapping. Commissioner Scull inquired about depositing recycled items with local businesses and Mr. Elsier discussed logistics, responsible handling and costs involved with local businesses.
- C. Engineer's Report:
- Commissioner Lockard inquired about the annual inspection of Mill Creek Dam for the Department of Environment Protection. Mr. Hersh explained the yearly inspection and there are a few maintenance items that will be corrected by the Public Works Department within the 1Q2021.
  - Commissioner Spearing inquired about Fair Oaks Basin. Mr. Hersh replied that construction is progressing with installation of piping, an inlet box, excavating the basin and the material at the site.
  - Commissioner Spearing inquired about the Pennypack forced main for a new home. Mr. Purtell replied that building permits were issued and there is nothing further to report.
- D. Landscape Architect's Report - Commissioner Lavalley reviewed items contained in the report.
- E. Traffic Engineer's Report - Anton Kuhner highlighted the following items:
- Warminster Road bridge replacement will not be ready for bid until Fall 2021, which will result in a 2022 project.
  - Commissioner Spearing commented that the Turnpike's Corridor Study dedicated priorities to the Route 611 Turnpike ramp and a four-way expansion of the two-way interchange in Upper Dublin. Commissioner Spearing suggested that the Township ask the County to include all the resources to date that have supported a study on areas east of Route 263.

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- F. Upper Moreland School District – Construction/Other Items:
- Commissioner Spearing commented that the Township is looking forward to a good working relationship with the School District's new leadership.
- G. Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority {HLRA} – to monitor status of redevelopment of former Willow Grove Naval Air Station property - Nothing to report.
- H. Environmental Advisory Council {EAC} - Dr. Lynnette Saunders provided the following updates:
- An electronic picture frame has been purchased for installation over the EAC sign at the Library.
  - Books were provided to the Library for patrons and an online discussion on "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy will be held March 21, 2021 at 2 p.m. and March 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.
  - Planning for the Earth Day Event to be held outside with masks available and social distancing on April 24, 2021, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with an animal presentation, food and a tree giveaway. Commissioner Spearing stated his support for an outdoor event that can be held while following safety protocols.
  - Reiterated the request for a Shade Tree Commission to be established in the Township.
  - Requesting a dedicated area within the Township where developers can store trees while promoting a woodland habit. Commissioner Lockard suggested adding an agenda item to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.
  - Requested that Fair Oaks Park be an educational opportunity on the services of trees.
  - Requested a plastic bag collection bin or a surcharge on plastic bags, which would assist funding the separation expenses of the Township.
  - Requested a bottle/beverage container deposit area that promotes the reduction of litter and surcharges collected could assist the State and create recycling jobs. Mr. Kilkenny recommended contacting Senator Maria Collett for more information.
- I. Pennsylvania Review Advisory Council:
- Commissioner Lavalley stated that a public meeting was held on January 7, 2021 regarding updates on the state-wide building code. Commissioner Lavalley will provide a future meeting date of the Council when it becomes available.
- J. Upper Moreland Historical Commission - Sue Worth-LaManna, Chair, provided the following updates:
- Research continues on confirming historical properties, which is labor intensive.
  - The 250th anniversary of the 1776 establishment of the United States of America will be held in 2026 and suggested forming a cross-community group to collaborate on festivities for a celebration. Ms. Worth-LaManna requested the Commissioners and Mr. Candland direct the Commission on how they can contribute. Commissioner McFatrige suggested contacting other townships and he will hold a discussion during the next meetings with the Eastern State Association of Township Commissioners and Montgomery County Association of Township Commissioners.
  - More information about the Historical Commission can be found on the Township website and the Upper Moreland Historical Commission's Facebook.
  - Anyone interested in filling a vacancy on the Commission should submit a letter of interest with a resume to Mr. Candland.

XIII. **Redevelopment** - Nothing to report.

XIV. **Visitor Comments:**

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- Ms. Worth-LaManna made a commentary on benefits of a Shade Tree Commission, discussed evaluating areas where trees have been removed over the past two years, safety issues, flooding, impervious ground, property owners' rights and the impact on the community's environment and landscape.
- Mr. Purtell addressed Ms. Worth-LaManna's comments that the Terwood Road concrete driveway did have a permit and there was no increase in the macadam, which was replaced within the same footprint. Also, the Shoemaker Road subdivision of driveway work was done according to the subdivision plan, inspected by Gilmore & Associates and two underground stormwater management systems were obtained within the scope of zoning.
- Ms. Worth-LaManna commented on signage on private properties and suggested reviewing the ordinance for violations. Mr. Elsier stated that advertising signs in the right-of-way will be removed by the maintenance crew. Commissioner Spearing requested that a follow up item be added to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

**XV. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner McFatrige commended the well-attended event at Veterans Memorial Park sponsored by the Equity Alliance of Upper Moreland and thanked the Police Department for their display of a police vehicle to engage the children.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on events in the national news and he encourages more citizens to register to vote.
- Commissioner Whiting reminded everyone to celebrate Martin Luther King Day and share it with the Upper Moreland Equity Alliance. He reiterated the importance of wearing masks, social distancing and staying safe.

**XVI. Adjournment** - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.