

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
Community Development Committee
January 22, 2018 - Meeting Minutes

Community Development Committee Members - Commissioner and Chair Joseph A. Lavalley; Commissioners Kip McFatrige 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** - Commissioner and Chair Lavalley called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
- IV. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- V. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Lavalley, McFatrige and Spearing. Members: Mr. Elsier. Absent: Mr. Purtell. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager; James Hersh, Township Engineer; Sean P. Kilkenny, Esquire, Township Solicitor.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – November 20, 2017 and December 4, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- VII. **Acceptance and Approval of the following reports:**
 - A. Code Enforcement Department Reports - Nothing to report.
 - B. Public Works Department Report:
 - Commissioner Spearing commented on pothole repair. Mr. Elsier stated that issues are reported daily, and he advises residents to call PennDOT at 1-800-Fix-Road which will direct their complaint to the Montgomery County District 6 Office.
 - Commissioner McFatrige commented that he will follow up on snow plowing complaints from Moreland Manor up with Mr. Elsier.
 - Commissioner Valenza commended Mr. Elsier and his crew on their efforts to remove snow.
 - Commissioner Spearing encouraged residents to remove their vehicles from the street whenever there is a snow storm. If a car must stay parked on the road, observe the rule that on even years, park on the even side of the road, and on odd years, park on the odd side of the road to maintain a consistent open lane for plowing.
 - C. Public Works Recycling Report:
 - Commissioner McFatrige commented that 290 tons of trash were picked up during the month of December, and he thanked the trash and recycling crew for their work.
 - D. Engineer's Report:
 - Commissioner Spearing commented on the desilting of Pennypack Creek by the YMCA developers. Mr. Hersh stated that the YMCA is approved to perform streambank stabilization in Terwood Park, and there is an application for desilting to be completed within two years from Certificate of Occupancy in which he will follow up with the YMCA.
 - Commissioner Lavalley commented on the status of The Station At Willow Grove. Mr. Hersh stated that Gilmore & Associates is working to record Land Development Plans and anticipates construction starting in the Spring.
 - E. Landscape Architect's Report:

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- Lynette Saunders, a resident and Environmental Advisory Council Chair, commented that installation of tree trenches at The Station At Willow Grove would assist in stormwater control without changing basic plans. Commissioner Lavalley directed Mr. Hersh to reiterate this suggestion with Petrucci.
- F. Traffic Engineer's Report:
 - Mr. Dodies stated that the Montco 2040 Grant will be discussed under "New Business".
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that Hatboro should be contacted to jointly address the Pennypack Creek stormwater study initiatives with regard to the bridge rebuilding project on Warminster Road.
- G. Upper Moreland School District – Construction/Other Items - Nothing to report.
- H. Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority {HLRA} – to monitor status of redevelopment of former Willow Grove Naval Air Station property:
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that a granular activated carbon filtration system located on Costello Avenue is operational and functioning very well.
- I. Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) - Lynette Saunders reviewed the following items:
 - Trees, donated by the Philadelphia Horticulture Society, were planted during November in the Township's parks and open spaces.
 - Green Rewards Program is an initiative for residents who participate in conservation events, install gardens or stormwater management measures to earn discounts at local businesses.
 - A new location was decided for the Outdoor Environmental Education Center's rain barrel.
 - Storm drains will be labeled in the Spring.
 - Community workshops planned for the Spring and Summer; many speakers are scheduled from the list of Penn State Extension Office Master Gardeners and Master Watershed Stewards Program.
 - New board members were provided with the web address for the Pennsylvania EAC Handbook.
 - Sue Worth LaManna, a resident and Upper Moreland Historical Commission member, commented about the conditions and cultivation on residential properties located along tributaries that connect to the Pennypack Creek, and suggested that workshops be offered to include education on residential storm drainage issues.
 - Commissioners Spearing and Lavalley endorsed the educational workshops and thanked the Council for their reports and work within the community.
- J. Pennsylvania Review Advisory Council - Commissioner Lavalley reported the following:
 - The next meeting in Harrisburg is Wednesday, January 24, 2018.
 - An advisory report is due in May to Governor Wolf's office on the 2015 Statewide Building Code. The public is currently invited to provide comments on the L&I website. Construction and Code Enforcement professionals are welcome to contact Commissioner Lavalley with any concerns.
- L. Upper Moreland Historical Commission - Susan Worth La Manna reviewed the following items:
 - Downtown historic structures will be inventoried, and items removed in March with assistance from Code Enforcement and Petrucci, the developer of The Station at Willow Grove.

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- The Commission would like to display for community interest and commentary, Joe Thomas' banner rendering of the historic Fire Company, Drug Store, and 1923 Post Office buildings.
- Commission Appointments remain open and are waiting to be filled.
- Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month and the public is welcome.
 - Commissioner Scull commented that artifacts can be viewed in the Township Building's lower level hallway and in the Historical Association's Room on Thursdays between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment.

VIII. **Land Development/Subdivision** - Nothing to report.

IX. **Old Business**

X. **New Business:**

- A. The Committee directed Mr. Kilkenny to draft a resolution for action by the Board of Commissioners at their February 5, 2018 Regular Meeting, that would authorize submission of a grant application to Montgomery County 2040 Implementation Grant Program requesting a \$200,000 grant to be used for construction of proposed basin at Fair Oaks Park.
- Commissioner Lavelle commented on the new focus category of Adaptation and Resiliency, and Mr. Hersh will ensure that it is included in the application.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that Audubon be featured in the project, so that it is not only a flood mitigation improvement, but also an amenity to the Township for better use of the park.
- B. The Committee approved notifying public/residents that the Public Works Department will immediately begin collecting all recyclables with one single vehicle (a standard trash/refuse truck). Currently, no change will be made to how residents place their recyclables curbside. The public/residents will be notified with clear instructions.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested that parking requirements for trash collection day be discussed at the next Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting.
 - Karen Houck, a resident and Revitalization Task Force member, asked to clarify when residents can begin to co-mingle paper, glass and cans in their recycling receptacles. Mr. Elsier stated they can begin immediately, and that the weight limit for glass and plastic is 20 pounds, and the weight limit for paper is 20 pounds.

The Committee approved submission of a grant application to the Section 902 Program of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to obtain funding for 7,500 “automated recycling containers with wheels and flip lids”, and to then modify Township equipment and implement an automated recycling process.

XI. **Other Items:**

- A. The Committee directed Mr. Dodies to coordinate with Jim Faber, McCloskey & Faber, and confirm his attendance at a future CDC meeting to present a draft ordinance with respect to the use of Native Plant Species and answer questions.

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B. The Committee directed Mr. Faber to provide recommendations regarding Veterans Memorial Park Fountain.

XII. **Redevelopment** - Karen Houck review the following items:

- The Task Force met in November to continue work on the Comprehensive Plan.
- November and December meetings were combined due to the holiday season and to allow time for Montgomery County Planning Commission to work on graphics, editing and peer review.
- The next Redevelopment Task Force will be Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

XIII. **Visitor Comments:**

- Sue Worth LaManna commented that donation bins, located throughout the Township, have become mini dumping stations and have created a "business for a business" opportunity allowing businesses to profit from bins stationed on their property.
- Ms. LaManna commented on the area around the downtown ticket booth. Mr. Elsier will use the same contact as Ms. LaManna at Montgomery County to secure a cleanup and landscaping schedule.
- Ms. LaManna commented on the maintenance of abandoned and vacant properties. Commissioner McFatrige stated that property owners and banks do not readily respond to inquiries. Commissioner Lavalley stated that the Property Maintenance Ordinance is upheld by the Police and Code Enforcement Offices who are astutely aware of circumstances at these properties.
- Commissioner Lockard commented that she agrees with Ms. LaManna regarding donation bins and that they discourage the public from seeking charitable entities. Commissioner Lavalley stated that Code Enforcement must monitor donation sites to ensure compliance with the Property Maintenance Ordinance.
- Ms. Houck suggested that an awareness message be posted to the Township website and TV channel explaining where the public can donate items to an appropriate charitable organization.
- The Committee will pursue a discussion on donation bins with Paul Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement, at a future Community Development Committee Meeting.

XIV. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing will follow up with McMahon & Associates, Township Transportation Engineers, regarding the request to prohibit drivers from making a right hand turn from Easton Road onto Mill Road.
- Commissioner Lavalley reviewed the report from the fire at the Regency Towers building of last week and commented that the overall fire and emergency systems within the building worked except for the frozen standpipe.
- Commissioner Lavalley welcomed and thanked Sean Kilkenny and Jennifer Prior from The Law Offices of Sean Kilkenny, LLC, Township Solicitor, for attending their first Community Development Committee Meeting.

XV. **Adjournment** - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.