

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
Community Development Committee
March 11, 2019 - Meeting Minutes

Community Development Committee Members - Commissioner and Chair Joseph A. Lavalle; 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. Lavalle at 7:00 p.m.

IV. Presentations/Announcements -

A. Presentation by Representatives of Aqua Pennsylvania, on Moreland Manor Project and Water Quality within Upper Moreland Township:

- Michael Staerk, Project Manager at Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., discussed details of the water main replacement planned for Bonnet Lane, Spring Lane, Topsfield Road, Delft Lane, Aintree Road, St. Dunstons Road and Burbridge Road.
- During the presentation by Aqua, company representatives Mike Staerk and Ann Dryer both stated that the cement lining separating from the cast iron pipe was reducing the chlorine residual of the water in these mains.
- Charles Hertz, Director of Water Quality at Aqua, stated that neither extensive flushing of mains or a different water source would have changed the decision to replace this particular main. In April 2019, new regulations will be enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Commissioner Spearing stated that the sample station was installed after the roadway was paved making use of an obsolete service line from a demolished house.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested drafting a resolution that requires mains be flushed once per year. Mr. Kilkenny stated that he discussed the issue with the Township Engineer prior to tonight's meeting and a follow up will be provided at a future Community Development Committee meeting.
 - Tom, a resident of Moreland Manor, inquired on completion of the project. Mr. Staerk stated that work will be completed by the end of April 2019.
 - Paul Black, a resident of 643 West County Line Road in Hatboro, commented safety concerns on flushing the main, well contamination and shutdowns and stated that Aqua directed residents to pick up tanker water at the library. Commissioners Lavalle and Spearing thanked Mr. Black for his comments.
 - Emily Graupner, a resident of Richard Road, suggested that Aqua and the Township coordinate future work to avoid inconvenience and expense to the residents. Commissioner Lavalle stated that the Township is working to avoid inconveniences to residents while continuing to address water safety issues with Aqua.
 - Brian Shannon, a resident of Quigley Avenue, commented that paving work performed by Aqua has fractured on Evans Avenue, Quigley Avenue and Frazier Avenue.
 - Tom, a resident, inquired if paving is to be done curb to curb and Commissioner Spearing confirmed that it is paved curb to curb.
 - Commissioner Lavalle requested that Aqua continue to keep the Township and its residents informed on the various water issues and provide safety tips.

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- A resident, inquired whether the Commissioners drink bottled water or tap water. Commissioners Spearing and Lavalley stated that they drink both. Commissioner Spearing stated that Aqua is very responsive to water testing and residents can request a breakdown analysis of their water. Commissioner Lavalley stated that residents can contact his office for a copy of the Environmental Protection Agency report on water issues.
- B. Presentation by Chris Mendel, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, on Grant Initiatives:
 - Mr. Mendel stated that this is the second meeting to discuss progress on the proposal for the Boileau Park water quality enhancement and stormwater management project that will continue over the next three years.
 - Mr. Mendel asked the Committee for approval to move forward with grant applications for Green Stormwater Plans and national and statewide funding.
 - Mr. Mendel discussed sole sourcing the project to Think Green and provided their draft site analysis, concept design, and phasing plans with preliminary costs.
 - Mr. Mendel stated that for different phases of the project, PERT will be applying for funding from the Department of Community & Economic Development, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.
 - Mr. Mendel stated that PERT will pursue grants in April, May and July 2019, and the project is estimated for completion in 2022.
 - Commissioner Spearing recommended communicating to the neighbor on the west side of the property.
 - Commissioner McFatridge commented concerns regarding Meyer Lane, which effects residents' houses in the area of Damian Drive and Danielle Drive.
 - Commissioner Spearing inquired on the fertilizer used on the athletic fields. Mr. Mendel recommended discussing the matter with Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested partnering with other organizations that may be interested in supporting the project. Mr. Mendel stated that he had hoped that Aqua stayed for their presentation, but that PERT has a good amount of support from the community.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested partnering with Penn State University and Delaware Valley University. Mr. Mendel stated that Temple University and Villanova University are partnered in the framework of the Delaware River Water Initiative and added that Upper Moreland Middle School science program is interested.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested partnering with Wesley Enhanced Living. Mr. Mendel stated that changes in land cover and management, and partnering further up the watershed would benefit the Township and the Pennypack.
 - Commissioner Spearing requested PERT's support of the Township to SEPTA and PennDOT with regard to water quality issues at the main tributary of the Pennypack. Mr. Mendel stated that Kevin Roth, Stewardship Assistant/Environmental Educator, will be speaking with PennDOT on March 12, 2019. He added that interventions around Surrey Lane will be included for future discussion with the Township.
 - Commissioner Valenza commented on concept design and the recommended grading around the perimeter of the athletic field. Mr. Mendel stated that they will ensure the grading is correct.

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- Commissioner Lavalley stated that Think Green's design is ecologically sensitive and he read excerpts from the Stormwater Management Ordinance which is based on concepts from the Pennypack Watershed Study and the Wissahickon Watershed Study.
 - Mr. Dodies stated that each grant application will be considered separately for each phase of the project. Mr. Mendel stated that the Township and Pennypack Trust will provide mostly in-kind matches on the grants and will not necessarily be cash matches.
 - Mr. Garton inquired on use of Township funds to match grants. Mr. Mendel stated that as the cost estimate is developed and in-house resources are determined, in-kind and cash matches will be identified.
 - Mr. Garton inquired on whether the Township or PERT will be the applicant for the grant. Mr. Mendel stated that PERT is the applicant and he will follow up with regard to involvement of a bidding process.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested that PERT pursue additional support from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Norfolk Southern and Hatboro-Horsham Sewer Authority.
 - Sue Worth-LaManna, a resident, inquired on the relationship between PERT and Boileau Park, and on their communication of projects with regard to future interior and exterior building renovations on the property. Mr. Mendel stated that they are well aware of the future building renovations and will plan their Phase III work accordingly.
 - Commissioner Scull commented that the Township owns Boileau Park and Friends of Boileau have a management agreement to help preserve and promote the Park.
 - Commissioner McFatrige commented that Phase III work proposed by PERT would drastically improve the ground around the Boileau Park buildings.
 - Kimberli Flanders, McCloskey & Faber, P.C., stated that the concept plans make sense, and it is a perfect educational opportunity for all who visit the Park.
 - Mr. Dodies stated that no action is necessary by the Board of Commissioners until a review of the grant applications. Mr. Mendel stated that the Township will have a two-week review period prior to submission of the grant application on April 11, 2019.
- C. Presentation by Kimberli Flanders, McCloskey & Faber, P.C., on draft ordinance of Native Plant Species:
- Ms. Flanders reviewed edits made to the draft ordinance that were suggested at the February 11, 2019 Community Development Meeting.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested notifying nurseries and suppliers of the demand for native plants and offer incentives to buyers. Ms. Flanders stated that growers have become increasingly aware of the demand and she will continue to make growers aware of the requirements.
 - Lynnette Saunders, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council, stated that new native plants are being offered regularly by growers.
 - Richard Booth, a resident, commented that he is pleased with the plant list which contains almost all native varieties.
 - The Committee directed Solicitor to prepare a resolution for the April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting that will set a public hearing date of May 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to consider adoption of the Native Plants Species ordinance.
- V. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Lavalley and Commissioners Spearing and McFatrige. Members: Messieurs Elsier and Purtell. Also, present: David A. Dodies, Township

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Manager; Erik Garton, P.E., Township Engineer; Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.

- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – February 11, 2019 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- VII. **Acceptance and Approval of the following reports:**
- A. Code Enforcement Department Reports:
- Commissioner Lavalley commented that the grace period is expiring on the new Statewide Building Code. Mr. Purtell stated that there have been no issues and larger projects submitted after October 2018 are starting to wrap up. Applicants had to apply for permits prior to the six-month grace period.
- B. Public Works Department Report:
- Commissioner McFatrige commented on winter weather conditions and commended the Public Works crew on snow removal.
 - Commissioner Spearing asked Mr. Kilkenny's advice on how to ask a Maryland Road property owner to contribute to repairs on a curb cut that empties water onto the road. Mr. Kilkenny suggested that Mr. Purtell contact the property owner to discuss possible resolutions. Mr. Purtell stated that he will evaluate the property and report back to the Township Solicitor.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that similar situations need to be corrected at properties on Betz Road and specifically on St. Dunstan's Road before Aqua can begin the main replacement and paving work.
- C. Public Works Recycling Report:
- Commissioner McFatrige inquired on the status of the new automated trash cans and trucks. Mr. Elsier stated that two new trucks are expected to be received in May. New trash cans are expected by September 2019.
 - Committee discussed challenges on the size of containers and the cost for trash and recycling.
 - Sue Worth-LaManna commented on the Township's level of recycling. Mr. Elsier stated that it is mandated by State Law, Act 101, and added that recycled waste is taken to a facility in Berks County.
- D. Engineer's Report - Mr. Garton provided the following highlights:
- Hatboro Borough received a grant to perform streambank stabilization at Eaton Memorial Park and asked the Township to participate in the project. Hatboro will provide the costs and the amount of MS4 PRP sediment reduction credits to be received.
 - Data will be reviewed from a resident next to Fair Oaks Basin to determine the cause of the existing stormwater pipe failure, which resulted in a sink hole and the water reaching the resident's sump pump.
- E. Landscape Architect's Report - Commissioner Lavalley read items from McCloskey & Faber's report.
- F. Traffic Engineer's Report - Mr. Dodies highlighted the following items:
- 2018 ARLE Grant application, with no match, is pending award results.
 - 2018 Green Light Go Grant for signal upgrades from Davisville Road to Easton Road on York Road, with a match committed by J. G. Pertucci Company, is pending award results.
 - DCED announced a Multimodal Transportation grant submission due by July 31, 2019.
- G. Upper Moreland School District – Construction/Other Items:

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- Commissioner Lavalley stated that he was asked to be a contributing member on the International Code Council ad hoc committee for building safety and security.
- H. Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority {HLRA} – to monitor status of redevelopment of former Willow Grove Naval Air Station property.
 - Commissioner Lavalley read a summary of key action items from the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented on accountability from manufacturers of the fire fighting foam and the reliability of carbon filters.
- I. Environmental Advisory Council (EAC): Lynnette Saunders, Chair, discussed the following items:
 - Preparations continue for the Earth Day & Energy Conservation Fair to be held on April 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities include a native wild animal show, building rain barrels, raffles and more. The event will be advertised on the Township's outdoor digital sign, TV channel and website. Posters from the schools are on display in the library.
 - Attended a lecture about bird safety and window collisions. Research has calculated that one million birds are killed each day from collisions into houses. Ms. Saunders suggested that language be added into the Township ordinance requiring the use of fritted glass on buildings.
- J. Pennsylvania Review Advisory Council:
 - Commissioner Lavalley stated that he will attend a meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in Harrisburg, PA regarding review of the International Code Council 2018 Building Codes.
- K. Upper Moreland Historical Commission - Sue Worth LaManna, Member, highlighted the following items:
 - The Commission is working on their annual Fall event to be held at Boileau Park.
 - Residents of the Ferguson Tract (Allison Road to Fitzwatertown Road; Moreland Road to Easton Road) are encouraged to pursue the services of the Historical Commission to research their property for historical value. Residents can contact Mr. Dodies, or use the website and Facebook page.
 - Two memberships remain vacant on the Commission. One member must specifically have a real estate background in accordance with the ordinance. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Interested applicants can send a letter of intent to Mr. Dodies.
 - The Historical Association's Annual Dinner will be held on April 30, 2019, at the German Club with entertainment by St. David's Choir.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that St. David's Church and the American Legion Building are celebrating a 100th anniversary this year.

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

IX. **Old Business:**

- A. James Faber, McCloskey & Faber, P.C. - Update on recommendations for Veteran's Memorial Park Fountain - The Parks and Recreation Committee would like to consider possibly a statue or artwork as a centerpiece instead:
 - Information will be presented at a future Community Development Committee Meeting.

X. **New Business:**

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- A. Request from Hatboro for use of Upper Moreland Leaf Compost Facility:
- Mr. Dodies stated that there are concerns by the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the capacity of the facility.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented on fire concerns and repairing a hydrant and water line on the site.
 - The Committee directed Mr. Dodies to contact UMHJSA (the Authority) to see if they are agreeable to change the lease to allow Hatboro to make use of Leaf Compost Facility; if the Authority is agreeable, the revised lease will be scheduled for action at the April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

XI. Other Items:

- Commissioner Spearing suggested scheduling a presentation regarding a responsible contractor ordinance at the April 8, 2019 Community Development Committee Meeting. Mr. Kilkenny clarified that a responsible contractor ordinance only applies to municipal projects and not private projects.
- Commissioner McFatrige inquired on SEPTA's progress. Mr. Dodies stated that they have slowed their planning work due to other priorities and are expected to provide an update later this year.

XII. Redevelopment -

- Karen Houck, Chair, stated that the Revitalization Task Force met on February 21, 2019 and provided a final review of the Comprehensive Plan's draft chapters to Montgomery County Planning Commission. The Task Force is awaiting response from MCPC to present the Plan at a future Community Development Committee meeting for further action.

XIII. Visitor Comments - Nothing to report.

XIV. Commissioner Comments - Nothing to report.

XV. Adjournment - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.