

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
Community Development Committee
April 13, 2020 - Meeting Minutes

Community Development Committee Members - Commissioner and Chair Joseph A. Lavalley; 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 remotely via audio call, by Commissioner and Committee Chair Joseph A. Lavalley.

IV. **Presentations/Announcements** - nothing to report.

V. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Lavalley, Commissioners Spearing and McFatridge. Members: Mr. Elsier and Mr. Purtell. Also, present: Matthew H. Candland; Township Manager; James Hersh, Township Engineer; Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.

VI. **Approval of Minutes** – March 9, 2020 meeting minutes - Commissioner Spearing made the following corrections:

- under Section VII, second comment, "... engineering supplement, according to Arthur Adams, Architect."
- And added a fourth comment stating: "Commissioner Lavalley also disagreed that an engineering supplement was necessary and that the bid specs were adequate to include the suppression fitting changes according to an industry professional."

VII. **Old Business:**

A. Grant Application Project Priorities:

- Anton Kuhner, McMahon Associates, Inc., stated that Multimodal Transportation Fund grant opportunities will be available for 2020 and he presented recommendations for improvement priorities in the Township.
- The Committee held lengthy discussions concerning the significance of each project.
- The Committee agreed that the top five priorities be:
 1. Blair Mill Road at Easton Road (in a joint commitment with Horsham Township)
 2. Maryland Road and Commerce Road
 3. Warminster Road Sidewalk
 4. Computer Road
 5. Willow Grove Train Station Relocation
- Commissioner Lockard noted that the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant application is due on June 30, 2020. Mr. Kuhner stated that he will contact Dave Elsier, Director of Public Works Department, for recommendations that will be presented for discussion at a future Community Development Committee Meeting.
- The Committee directed Mr. Candland and McMahon Associates to finalize the list of grant application project priorities to move for action at the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

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

IX. New Business

- A. Welsh Road Green Light-Go Project – Consider recommending to the Board of Commissioners the request to partner with Upper Dublin, Horsham and Abington Townships in the Welsh Road Green Light-Go project for upgrades to signal traffic adaptive system and commit to a local match, not to exceed \$25,000.
- The Committee agreed to move forward for action the request to partner with Upper Dublin, Horsham and Abington Townships in the Welsh Road Green Light-Go project at the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

X. Presentations - nothing to report.

XI. Acceptance and Approval of the following monthly reports for March:

- A. Code Enforcement Department Reports (March 2019 and 2020):
- Commissioner Spearing inquired about the number of permitted projects that are unable to start due to the COVID-19 work restrictions. Mr. Purtell stated that Governor Wolf's directive has limited the approval of permits and currently there are approximately 5-6 permits issued for sanitary sewer services. Mr. Purtell stated that all work has stopped and exceptions must meet specific criteria.
 - Commissioner McFtridge stated that Aqua is at work to alleviate an emergency situation on Davisville Road bridge. Mr. Candland added that the Township is requesting permission for the roadwork contractor to continue once Aqua is finished.
 - Commissioner Lavallo inquired about the status of building construction and inspections. Mr. Purtell stated that he is not aware of any active construction, and inspections are currently suspended.
- B. Public Works Department Report and Recycling Report:
- Commissioner Lavallo inquired about alterations and cancellations to collection services. Mr. Elsier stated that there have been no changes in the normal schedule of services. The amount of sanitation and recycling has increased since residents are home due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Mr. Candland stated that Public Works is advocating distance between workers riding in trucks and wearing masks and gloves, which has increased the time it takes to make collections.
 - Commissioner Lavallo inquired if any employees have been tested and/or contracted the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Candland stated that a few employees presented symptoms and their results were negative.
 - Commissioner Whiting commended Mr. Elsier and his crew for outstanding job performance in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.
- C. Engineer's Report:
- Commissioner Spearing inquired on Fair Oaks Park project. Mr. Hersh stated that an application for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be submitted to Montgomery County by the end of April. McCloskey & Faber is currently working on the landscape design. Bid specifications and a final design should be available at the next Community Development Committee Meeting.
 - Commissioner Scull commented that 28 North York Road looks near to demolition. Mr. Purtell stated that an interior demolition permit was issued and the applicant is in process of submitting plans for the building.
- D. Landscape Architect's Report:

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- Commissioner Lavalley reiterated that McCloskey & Faber are currently working on a landscape design for Fair Oaks Park.

E. Traffic Engineer's Report -

- Anton Kuhner, McMahon Associates, Inc., stated that the Township Solicitor has reached out to property owners living along Byberry Road and Davisville Road and is awaiting their signoff before the Township can acquire a PennDOT permit for construction.
- Commissioner Valenza inquired on the property acquisitions. Mr. Kuhner stated that two residents' signatures were obtained, one resident requested more discussion, and three residents did not respond and were mailed notifications again.

F. Upper Moreland School District – Construction/Other Items - nothing to report.

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}:

- Commissioner Spearing stated that the Earth Day event scheduled for April 24, 2020 is canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Commissioner Lockard requested that Lynnette Saunders, Chair, be copied on landscape plans for the Fair Oaks Park project. Mr. Hersh stated that a copy will be provided to Ms. Saunders before June.

I. Pennsylvania Review Advisory Council:

- Commissioner Lavalley explained that the State's public meetings are canceled, but individual subcommittees continue via conference calls to review the 2015 Code and the changes implemented in 2018 to move forward to a potential adoption of the updated ICC Codes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A report to Governor Wolf's office is due in June.

J. Upper Moreland Historical Commission:

- Commissioner Lavalley stated that the April 7, 2020 Historical Commission meeting was canceled.

XII. Other Items - nothing to report.

XIII. Redevelopment:

- Commissioner Lavalley stated that Montgomery County Planning Commission's offices are currently closed, but the Commission is continuing to edit the final draft of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

XIV. Visitor Comments - nothing to report.

XV. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner McFtridge announced that the Board of Commissioners will meet in an Executive Session via conference call following the conclusion of tonight's meeting to discuss legal matters.
- Commissioner Lavalley thanked the Commissioners, the community, the Township staff, the workers at local, state and national levels for helping to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 crisis.

XVI. Adjournment - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.