

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
Community Development Committee
January 10, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Community Development Committee Members - Commissioner and Committee Chair Kevin C. Spearing; Commissioners Kip McFatrige, Anthony S. Prousi; 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 Committee Chair and Commissioner Kevin C. Spearing.

VI. Roll Call: Committee Chair and Commissioner Spearing; Commissioners McFatrige, Prousi; Mr. Elsier, Mr. Purtell. Also, present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager; James Hersh, Township Engineer; Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.

V. Presentations/Announcements:

- Commissioner Spearing asked everyone to remember Don Warner, who recently passed away and was a huge contributor to the Township. He served as a former Commissioner, a member of the School Board, Zoning Hearing Board, Police Pension Committee, and Historical Commission.

VI. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2021:

Commissioner Scull commented on Section XV., first arrow, and corrected the spelling of Samson to "Sampson". The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes as amended.

VII. Land Development/Subdivision - Nothing to report.

VIII. Other Items:

A. Request from Anne Marie Kieser for the properties located at 2500 Easton Road and Sycamore Avenue:

- Daniel Chertok, Archer Attorneys at Law, summarized a request for waiver of subdivision of the two separate properties, which must be provided to Montgomery County in order to record the Deed.
- Anne Anastasi, Genesis Abstract, explained that the original 1967 Deed was later revised in 1969, combining two parcels in the Metes and Bounds description. A copy of the Easement identifying the vacant land behind the Sunoco on Sycamore Avenue will be provided to the Committee.
- Commissioner McFatrige commented that zoning on the back property remains residential and zoning for the front property on Easton Road remains commercial.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting.

B. Preliminary Design for Warminster Road Sidewalk Project:

- Anton Kuhner, McMahan Associates, reviewed details of the design plans.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting.

IX. Old Business:

A. Zoning Ordinance Updates - Mr. Purtell discussed updates:

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- The Committee discussed consolidation of the current O-Office, C1 and C2-Commercial Districts, and items concerning greenspace/common gathering open space, driveways, sidewalks and parking areas.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the February 14, 2022 Community Development Committee Meeting.
- B. Update on Carson Simpson Farm Streambank Stabilization Project - James Hersh, Gilmore & Associates, provided updates:
 - A Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit was submitted. Next steps include preparation of an Easement Agreement with Carson Simpson Farm and posting specifications and documents out for bid, before construction can begin in the spring.
 - Reassured with Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation, that the project should have no interference with the County's Master Trail work.

XI. **New Business** - Nothing to report.

XII. **Acceptance and Approval of the following monthly reports for November and December 2021:**

- A. Code Enforcement Department Reports - Mr. Purtell discussed the following:
 - The Department continues to be very active with the processing of permits and construction projects, despite the Covid pandemic.
- B. Public Works Department Report and Recycling Report - Mr. Elsier discussed the following:
 - Details from the recycling bids were discussed. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) presented studies recommending that the Consortium accept a 7-year contract with Republic Services, and establishing a Recycling Authority, which can apply for grants to assist with the purchase of transfer trailers.
 - Neighboring municipalities currently prefer to utilize single-stream trucks.
 - Republic Services will provide recycling education for public presentations in communities and schools.
 - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action on a resolution at a future Regular Meeting.
- C. Engineer's Report - Nothing further to report.
- D. Landscape Architect's Report - Nothing further to report.
- E. Traffic Engineer's Report - Anton Kuhner, McMahan Associates discussed the following:
 - Warminster Road Bridge project was awarded to Allen Myers and a schedule will be obtained during the preconstruction meeting next week. Commissioner Spearing noted that Davisville Road cannot be paved while Warminster Road is closed.
 - The 611 Bridge over the Turnpike is awaiting results in March-April from the PennDOT Multi-modal grant application. An Agreement is also being worked through with the Department of Community and Economic Development.
 - Further follow up will be provided on the proposed improvements to Moreland Avenue Bridge in Hatboro.
 - Maryland Road culvert flooding issues are being studied for solutions.
 - All Township bridge structures have been added to the State's Bridge Bill. A list of approved bridges will be generated, which can be submitted for grant funding.
 - A follow up will be conducted with Horsham Township to coordinate improvements at Blair Mill Road and Commerce Avenue and Blair Mill Road and Easton Road.
 - PennDOT has approved one sign for the Turnpike, which is pending the Turnpike Commission's approval of the Agreement.
 - Mr. Kuhner recommends that the Committee review and update the 2023 Capital Improvement Project Schedule.

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- F. Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) - Dr. Lynnette Saunders, Chair, provided the following updates:
- Plans for the Outdoor Environmental Education Center continue to be developed.
 - A teacher at the Middle School has designed a sign for the bioswales.
 - A Shade Tree Commission ordinance is required to establish a Tree City USA.
 - Recommending that the Township have specified locations where in-lieu-of money from developers could be used by the Township to create woodland habitat locations, and suggested benefiting the land along Pennypack Creek, Warminster Road, the Middle School's track grounds toward Preston Lane, along the creek next to the Dog Park, and the YMCA.
 - A native shade tree will be planted with an educational sign and suggested Masons Mill Park, or Farmstead Park.
 - Earth Day event will be held on April 23, 2022, 10 am to 2 pm, at Masons Mill Park.
 - Proposed installing a water fountain at Masons Mill Park to fill reusable water bottles.
 - A brochure is being designed with educational information about problems with plastics.
 - Suggested inviting Faran Savitz from PennEnvironment, to give a presentation about plastics and potential bag bans.
 - Commissioner Whiting commented about the effect of plastic bags polluting oceans.
- G. Upper Moreland Historical Commission - Commissioner Prousi provided the following updates:
- There was a change in leadership in December and thanked Michelle Young, Bob Young and Bob Mathers for their many years of service, as they resign from the Commission.
 - Susan Worth-LaManna is President, Udo Maron is Vice-President, Natalie Baine-Schliskey is Secretary, and Bonnie MacDonald is Treasurer.
 - Planning continues for the 250th Anniversary of the United States to be celebrated in 2026.
 - Three historical Downtown walking signs are to be purchased and installed using the grant received in 2021.
 - The Mineral Springs project is nearly completed at Veterans Memorial Park.
 - Work continues with the Historical Association to develop a digital format that visitors can access on their devices at historical landmark signs with further educational information.
 - The public is encouraged to apply to the vacancies on the Commission and to also join in the Zoom meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

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

XIV. **Visitor Comments** - Nothing to report.

XV. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Mr. Candland announced that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded a grant in the amount of \$335,000 to the Township for stormwater restoration projects at Farmstead Park.
- Commissioner McFatridge inquired about the draft sign ordinance and the Committee will continue a discussion at a future Committee Meeting.
- Commissioner Spearing announced that the Committees Meetings will be held on January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.