

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
Community Development Committee
May 8, 2023 - 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 and Prousi, Mr. Elsier. Absent: Paul E. Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, James Hersh, Township Engineer, Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.

V. Presentations/Announcements – Nothing to report.

VI. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2023:

- The Committee unanimously approved the minutes, as submitted.

VII. Land Development/Subdivision – Nothing to report.

VIII. New Business -

A. The Solicitor's office to advertise a Public Hearing to be set on June 5, 2023 regarding the Conditional Use Application submitted by Federal Realty OP, LP:

- The Committee requested receipt of the most comprehensive future version of the project.
- James Garrity, Esq., Wisler Pearlstine, commented on versions of the ordinance and will provide the conditional use portion, and a version of the entire site with the parking garage.
- Commissioner McFatrige reiterated that several requests were made to Federal Realty to provide the engineered plans of the site and a traffic study. These items are required by the Board of Commissioners before approving any further development.

- The Committee advised that a June 5, 2023 Public Hearing is contingent upon receipt of the plans for review and comments by May 22, 2023 to Gilmore & Associates.

B. Library Fence Project:

- Commissioner Scull inquired about the status of preliminary site work and Mr. Hersh replied that the survey is nearly completed, stakes will be placed and then neighbors can be notified.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the proposal from Main Street Fence at the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

C. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Township and Gerald and Janice DiMarzio d/b/a "Willow Inn" for the installation of a historical signage:

- Mr. Candland explained that it is a basic agreement between the DiMarzio Family and the Township to install a historical sign at the Willow Inn.
- Commissioner Prousi thanked the Township for coordinating the arrangement, discussed the cost covered by the Township, the imagery and copy are being finalized, and installation is anticipated for June.

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- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the MOU at the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

IX. Old Business:

A. Single Use Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance:

- The Committee discussed examples of park visitors carrying in plastic products, the effects of local ordinances, process of enforcement and assistance at State and Federal levels.
- Mr. Baumler explained that a public hearing is not a requirement for this type of ordinance.
- Commissioner McFatridge shared how he recycles single use plastic bags and observations from shopping centers on types of trash and maintenance issues.
- Commissioner Prousi shared his experience with recycled bags and further encouraged changing old habits.
- Commissioner Scull commented that many ordinances have fines that are not collected.
- Dr. Lynnette Saunders from the Environmental Advisory Council commented on toxicity of microplastics that are present in food and water and discussed continuing small steps that will eventually make an important impact.
- Commissioner Spearing commented examples of investments made and discouraging setbacks incurred with government on petitions to remove PFAS from water.
- A resident commented about straws in the ordinance and suggested that everyone drink without a straw.
- Commissioner Spearing commented that the plastic bag ban is not a celebration of environmental accomplishment without continual progress in all areas of recycling.
- The Committee directed Mr. Candland to mail a letter of notification about the ban to all businesses in the Township.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the June 12, 2023 Community Development Committee Meeting.

X. Redevelopment – Nothing to report.

XI. Other Items – Nothing to report.

XII. Acceptance and Approval of the following monthly reports for April 2023:

- A. Code Enforcement Department Report – Nothing further to report.
- B. Public Works Department Report and Recycling Report:
 - Commissioner Prousi thanked Mr. Elsier for his assistance with installation of new utility poles.
- C. Township Engineer and Landscape Architect Report – Mr. Hersh discussed the following:
 - Coordinating with the contractor for the Carson Simpson Farm streambank project and should start work the week of May 15th.
 - The Committee requested to see a proposal for the outfall at Sycamore Avenue and Parkside Avenue to be discussed at the June 12, 2023 Community Development Committee Meeting. Mr. Hersh explained replacement of the inlet and that a sump will be installed to discharge to the property. The pipe will be reset onto the property and sediment removed to the right-of-way.
- D. Traffic Engineer's Report – Anton Kuhner, McMahan Associates, discussed the following:
 - Six bids were reviewed for the Warminster Road sidewalk project ranging from \$250,000 to \$523,000. The paramount bidder is LB Construction Enterprise in the amount of \$258,000.

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- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting approve the bid award, which includes an additional allowance for paving and minimal unforeseen issues.
- Discussed rebuilding a wall for a property owner along Warminster Road.
- Commissioner Prousi clarified with Mr. Candland that a Montco 2040 Grant was received for \$200,000 with a match of \$40,000.
- Commissioner Spearing briefly reviewed projects and commented concerns on the following:
 - Impervious runoff from Horsham Township’s improvements made at the intersection of Blair Mill Road and Easton Road that will flow into the Fair Oaks Basin inlet.
 - Proposed asking Horsham Township to help fund additional stormwater management at the Basin. Mr. Kuhner and Mr. Hersh suggested that the next phase of design for the Blair Mill Road widening project will include that opportunity.
 - Warminster Road Bridge project postponed because of utility work and the closure extended by two months.
 - Bonnet Lane utility lines are obsolete, need re-evaluation and removal by PECO, Verizon and Comcast. Mr. Candland will follow up with utility companies, but suggested moving forward with awarded grant funding to remove the lines.
- The deadline is in July to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund (DCED MTF) grant for construction and inspection work on the Maryland Road structure.
 - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at the July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting approve a resolution for the DCED MTF grant application.
- E. Eastern Montgomery County Turnpike Interchanges Group:
 - Mr. Candland stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 15th and an update will be provided at the June 12, 2023 Community Development Committee Meeting.
- F. Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) - Dr. Lynnette Saunders, Chair, discussed the following:
 - Earth Day Fair was successful and a few changes will be made for next year that include involvement by the Middle School and High School.
 - Advocating use of clean energy technologies at the future-renovated Township property buildings.
 - Removing invasive plants from the wetland in the Dog Park on June 10th and along the streambank in Veterans Memorial Park on July 8th.
 - Commissioner Spearing commended the EAC for work on the Earth Day Fair.
 - Commissioner Prousi commented support for sustainable technologies at the Township buildings and suggested that the EAC forward relevant grant application information to Mr. Candland.
- G. Upper Moreland Historical Commission – Sue Worth-LaManna, President, updated on the following:
 - The Commission’s website has been enhanced for community engagement and will be going live shortly. Thanked Mike Lovecchio for his technical expertise.
 - Thanked Jerry DeMarzio, “W” Restaurant owner, for providing the historical picture of David Nolan, a retail store owner in the heart of downtown Willow Grove from the early 1900s.
 - Event planning continues in partnership with Hatboro and Horsham on the 250th Celebration of America, which will utilize the Farmstead Park.

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- Will work with Parks and Recreation Department to schedule Farmstead Park in October for a family historical-based event and a Historical Association Inventory members' event.

XIII. **Redevelopment** – Nothing to report.

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

XV. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioners Spearing and McFatrige briefly reviewed three Zoning Applications scheduled for the May 11, 2023 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting and that Sean Kilkenny's office will be representing the Board of Commissioners on matters concerning the Olive Garden's sign.

XVI. **Adjournment** - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.