

March 2, 2016
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Monroe Township Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Nelson. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

ATTENDANCE

Sharon Nelson, Chairperson	Mike Pykosh, Solicitor
Sheldon Brymesser, Vice-Chairman	Mark Bruening, Engineer
Gary Page, Secretary	Karen Lowery, Secretary
Dave DeNicholas	Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning
Carl Kuhl	

MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Ms. Nelson, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 regular meeting with minor editorial changes as provided.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comprehensive Plan Review

Ms. Nelson asked if the Supervisors have given direction for the Planning Commission. Mr. Kuhl stated that the Planning Commission isn't requesting any funds, they are just looking at the Comp Plan and deliberating. Ms. Nelson added that the MPC states the Planning Commission can perform different tasks at the request of the governing body, so she would prefer some official direction from the Supervisors. Mr. Kuhl said he will have this placed on the agenda for the March meeting.

Mr. Kuhl stated that he attended a Supervisors Boot Camp Class which suggested the Comp Plan be reviewed every 10 years. Changes don't have to be made, but it's good to review it to be sure changes aren't needed.

Ms. Nelson questioned where the Planning Commission is to start and what can they do without spending any money.

Mr. Kuhl stated that Mr. Stoner is well versed with supporting documents and has shown a willingness to support the review of the Comp Plan. Reviewing business development would be a good start. We need to find out businesses concerns and fears and figure out how to keep

them in the Township. Mr. Stoner mentioned that the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) works with businesses to see what makes sense in certain areas. He is pretty sure they would be willing to attend a meeting. Mr. Brymesser added that 59% of the township is agriculture land. Ms. Nelson added that the visit from CAEDC may help to determine appropriate questions to have in a survey for businesses.

Mr. Kuhl asked Mr. Stoner if there is some type of equivalent group to CAEDC that understands and could help with the agriculture side of things. Mr. Stoner said that Dave Swartz in the Agriculture Extension office would be a great person to talk to. He will contact him about attending a meeting as well.

Ms. Nelson stated the action items are currently getting direction from the Supervisors, meeting with CAEDC to discuss businesses, and meeting with Mr. Swartz to discuss agriculture.

Ms. Nelson stated that she has looked at the existing Comp Plan to identify which sections are okay and which ones need reviewed. Mr. Kuhl suggested that we learn from the experts first and then determine if the Comp Plan is dated for viable.

The Board discussed that transportation would be a section to look into. Sewer and water are also areas of concern for the township. The Board would also like to obtain updated maps of the land in the agriculture security program. Mr. Stoner said he will provide a link to the maps the county has. Mr. Kuhl added that PennDot has traffic maps that could also be helpful.

Mr. Kuhl suggested that the Board determine what questions we have and want to raise. Ms. Nelson suggested that the Board think it over and discuss this at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred & Susan Moeslein Agriculture Security Request

Mr. Pykosh explained that an application was filed for Fred & Susan Moeslein at 1393 Lutztown Road with 51.3 acres. Copies of the reports provided by the Cumberland County Planning Department and Mark Bruening were both favorable.

Mr. Brymesser stated that the land fits well with the Agricultural Security program and it is the family's wishes to be maintained as farmland.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Brymesser, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors that the Fred & Susan Moeslein Agricultural Security request for 51.3 acres be approved and added to the program.

Lamar Ruppert Poultry Operation – Land Development Plan

Mr. Bruening stated that Mr. Ruppert's consultant requested the plan be tabled to address the engineer's comments.

On the motion of Mr. Brymesser, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote to the members it was duly RESOLVED to table the Lamar Ruppert Poultry Operation Plan.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

David Maher lives in Upper Allen Township and likes to check out surrounding communities. He felt like there were a lot of great questions and comments regarding planning for now and the future. He added that he works for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Sometimes the cultural and historical sections of the Comp Plan are overlooked. He offered the services of his employer to help with updating the Comp Plan.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Kuhl that the PSATS Convention is coming up in April and holds lectures and presentations on various items. If anyone is interested in attending please let the Supervisors know. There is also a monthly newsletter he will look into getting and sharing with the Planning Commission members.

Mr. Kuhl stated that PP&L is to make the route selection by the end of March. PP&L might be willing to meet with officials to answer specific questions. The Supervisors are trying to get PP&L use the existing right-of-way.

Mr. Kuhl stated the state allows for an alternate on the Planning Commission. A resident has shared concerns that he is a Supervisors and also on the Planning Commission. The Supervisors could choose to appoint an alternate to the Board if there was an interested person.

Ms. Nelson stated that she has served on the Planning Commission with two Supervisors and felt it provided a good communication bridge. Mr. DeNicholas added that if Mr. Kuhl felt he was being spread too thin he needed to let everyone know, but it would be good to have someone in the wings learning how things operate. Mr. Brymesser stated that he resigned from the Planning Commission when he became Supervisors to give someone else in the community a chance to serve.

Mr. Pykosh said that he would look into the alternate position. It may only be needed if the Planning Commission would be below the number of members needed for a quorum.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Brymesser, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Lowery
Administrative Assistant