

Planning Commission

MINUTES

October 2, 2024

Members Present: Bobb Carson, Dave Long, Bruce Whitesell, Nicole Zane (telephone) were present.

Mr. Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A) Comprehensive Plan initiatives – Mr. Carson went through the initiatives and discussed updates.

i. Community Infrastructure & Utilities

- (1) Provide for reliable power options – (A6); (N. O'Brien – support role) – no discussion.
- (2) Encourage a resilient building stock – (A15); (B. Carson – lead role) – discussion deferred.
- (3) Assess wastewater infrastructure and capacity to address community needs (A22); (D. Long – lead role; N. Zane – support role). Mr. Long reported a municipal assistance grant application was submitted by the Township. No information or response yet.

ii. Safety and Mobility

- (1) Continue to maintain local road network infrastructure for ease of mobility throughout the Township – (C1); (D. Nicholson – lead role); (C5); (N. Zane – support role) – no discussion.
- (2) Expand, connect, and fund a multimodal network of off-road trails and on-road bike routes (C7, C8-13); (D. Long/D. Nicholson – leaders; A. Kelly, N. O'Brien – support roles) – brief discussion of possibly linking Jere Knight trails, Peppermint Park, and the Saucon Valley Rail Trail by Bike (on secondary roads).

iii. Livable Centers

- (1) Provide financially accessible housing that is diverse in type and price point (D1-3); (B. Whitesell – Lead role) – no discussion.
- (2) Promote neighborhood-scale mixed use development in the villages and hamlets (D4); (B. Whitesell – Lead; (D6); B. Carson – support) Discussion of accessory apartments and accessory dwelling units – could/should they be combined in a zoning ordinance revision? Background material circulated with meeting agenda.

iv. Rural & Historic Preservation

- (1) Protect natural ecosystems, including natural resources, such as air quality and water quality, forests, and wildlife (E23-27); (N. O'Brien – Lead) – no discussion.

B) Planning Commission Updates –

Event venues/special events – There are no new updates as the subject is still with the Board of Supervisors for their discussion and review. Mr. Long advised there is a lot of public interest in this topic and people that were present at the last Board of Supervisors meeting.

AGU Thriving Earth Exchange Project – Springfield Township was accepted into the program. The scope of the project is not known yet. Mr. Pursell, Manager, will look at a few flooding problem areas. The next meeting for this project will take place on 10/10/24.

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Motion made by Mr. Whitesell, seconded by Mr. Long and carried to adopt the September 4, 2024, minutes as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Whitesell and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Gerhart