

TOWNSHIP OF RADNOR
Minutes of Public Meeting of February 11, 2013

The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners met at approximately 7:00 PM in the Radnorshire Room in the Radnor Township Municipal Building, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087

Commissioners Present

Elaine Schaefer, President

John Fisher

John Nagle - Absent

William Spingler

James C. Higgins, Vice President

Kevin G. Higgins

Donald Curley

Also Present: *Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; John Osborne, Treasurer; John Rice, Township Solicitor; Steve Norcini, Director of Public Works; Kevin Kochanski, Director of Community Development; Roger Phillips, P.E., Township Engineer; Amy Kaminski, Traffic Engineer; John Sartor, P.E. and Jennifer DeStefano, Executive Assistant to the Township Manager.*

Public Participation

Sara Pilling, Garrett Hill – She announced the Rain Barrel Workshop that will be held on March 10, 2013 at 2 PM at the United Methodist Church of Garrett Hill.

Martin Heldring – Discussed items such as the Open Space Acquisition Policy and what financials need to be provided, affordability standards and use of money for open space when it needs to be spent on stormwater management.

Notice of Executive Session preceding the Board of Commissioners meeting of February 11, 2013

All commissioners were in attendance with Commissioner Nagle absent, where matters of personnel, litigation and real estate were discussed.

Recognition of Main Line School Night for their 75th Anniversary

Commissioner Schaefer presented Rachel Laibson, Executive Director of Main Line School Night for recognition of their 75th Anniversary. Rachel Laibson and Judy Sherry discussed some of the special classes that are currently being offered.

Recognition of past members of Boards, Commissions and Committees

Commissioner Schaefer presented John Dreibelbis with a certificate of recognition for his years of service on the Code Appeals Board.

FINANCE & AUDIT

Disbursements Acceptance and Approval

Commissioner K. Higgins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Spingler. Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

BPT Settlement #2013-BPT-04 in the amount of \$12,500

Commissioner K. Higgins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Spingler. Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

Motion to authorize RFP's for Custodial Services for the Pension Assets

Commissioner K. Higgins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Spingler. Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Adoption of Ordinance #2012-05 – Amending Chapter 263, Trees of the Radnor Township Code, establishing new definitions, general powers, and duties of the Shade Tree Commission, new permit and application requirements, and revising the Enforcement and Penalties Provisions of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Schaefer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

After brief discussion in regards to non-substantial modifications, Commissioner J. Higgins made a motion to amend the original motion to adopt the ordinance with non-substantial changes dated February 7, seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

Commissioner Curley made a motion to change the following: 263 4 B (Words) - Add the following text to the definition of tree replacement formula "the replacement formula for the removal of a dead tree or an emergency tree shall be limited to 1:1, seconded by Commissioner K. Higgins, motion failed 2-4 with Commissioner Spingler, Schaefer, J. Higgins and Fisher opposed.

Commissioner Curley made a motion to change the following: 263 4 B (Words) - Add the following text to the definition of TREE REPLACEEMNT FORMULA "All existing trees that were planted in the previous 10 years and that satisfy the technical criteria for replacement shall count toward the replacement requirement", seconded by Commissioner K. Higgins, motion failed 2-4 with Commissioner Spingler, Schaefer, J. Higgins and Fisher opposed.

Commissioner Curley made a motion to change the following: 263 11 B - Delete "\$500 per day" and "\$1000 per day" and replace with "\$500 per tree" and "\$1000 per tree." Delete the text "Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation", motion failed for a second.

Mr. Zienkowski stated that this ordinance is long overdue; there are large trees that are down in the Township.

After brief discussion in regards to non-substantial modifications, Commissioner J. Higgins made a motion to amend the original motion to adopt the ordinance with non-substantial changes dated February 7, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Motion passed 4-2 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

Resolution #2013-14 – Approving Inter-municipal Transfer of a Liquor License to Estia Taverna Restaurant – 200 Radnor Chester Road.

Commissioner Curley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Spingler.

Commissioner Nagle in his absence asked that it be read into the minutes that he is opposed to the Liquor License Transfers due to the proximity to the high school.

Commissioner Schaefer called the vote, motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

Resolution #2013-15 – Approving Inter-municipal Transfer of a Liquor License to Pietro’s Italian Restaurant – 200 Radnor Chester Road.

Commissioner Curley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Spingler. Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING

Update on the Chamounix Road Sidewalks Project

Steve Norcini gave the following update on Chamounix Road Sidewalk Project:

The proposed Chamounix Road Sidewalk Project extends from the St. David’s Train Station on Chamounix Road northward to a pedestrian link from Eastern University, for a distance of approximately one thousand one hundred feet. The preliminary design was prepared by Gilmore and Associates.

On Wednesday, January 30, 2012, at 7:00 PM, a meeting was held at the Township Building for the residents whose property the proposed sidewalk project would traverse. Of the eight homeowners, six were able to attend.

The preliminary design plans were on display, and a discussion of the project ensued. Questions and concerns regarding the project were brought forth. I have broken the residents’ concerns. Comments and questions are broken down into the following categories (items noted with an asterisk are for follow up and/or action should the project proceed):

Survey

- The proposed project is located within the Right of Way, so easements are not required. The question arose as to where the 40 Right of Way was ascertained. **Survey data was provided by Gilmore and Associate; registered surveyor. Further research will be done regarding the Right of Way.*
- It was noted that the property lines may not be accurate. *For the purpose of this project, property lines were not surveyed. The location of the property line is immaterial to the placement of the sidewalk.*
- Should the project come to fruition, the resident’s request that the R.O.W. be staked out.

Trees

- The plan notes that on one property, trees are to be removed. The type and size of the tree replacements. *The trees would be replaced according to Township Shade Tree Standards.*
- The sidewalk is proposed to be installed along the road shoulder, in many cases within the drip line of sizeable (possible Heritage) trees. This could have a deleterious effect on the trees. **The arborist on retainer with the Township should review the plans and along with a site visit, determine the impact of the proposed work on the trees.*

Stormwater

- Two residents receive runoff from St. David’s Road, and are concerned that the proposed sidewalk project will exacerbate the situation. **Should the project proceed, this issue should be investigated and addressed.*
- Some means of stormwater management (BMPs, etc.) should be installed to mitigate the increased impervious surface of the proposed sidewalk.

Liability

- As proposed, the effected homeowner would be responsible for snow removal, maintenance and repair (after the one year warranty period), and any liability regarding the proposed sidewalk. *The residents were very concerned with these issues, and suggest that Eastern University or the Township be responsible for these items until the current homeowner sells the property.*

Costs

- The residents wanted to know if the total costs to date can be provided, not just the Gilmore design costs but current and past employee's time involved. *Gilmore's cost can easily be provided; extracting costs of employees prior to two years ago may or may not be possible.*
- The question arose regarding project cost; what if the project costs more than the \$80,000 put forth by Eastern University?
- Gilmore's original estimate on construction cost was a ballpark of \$80,000, not including design costs, which also does not include any stormwater mitigation.

Miscellaneous

- Residents wanted to know the current accident history of the area.
- The question was put forth if the installation of sidewalks would preclude future additions to the homes on the property.
- Why is this designed without a grass area between the curb and sidewalk? *If the grass verge was part of the design, the impact on properties and trees would be greater, and easements would be required.*

The items noted for action/additional information, in most cases, do not require the expenditure of additional funds. The services of the arborist, stormwater management, and the concern of stormwater runoff from the St. David's Road will require additional design and construction funding. I will move forward with the gathering of the cost data, as well as an updated probable cost of construction.

There was discussion amongst the Board of Commissioners and Staff and the Board asked Mr. Norcini to look into the cost of using synthetic material

Public Comment

Jack Smith, St. David's Ave – Would like to see the cost alternatives to the project.

Resolution #2013-11 - Authorization to Implement Emergency Repairs, Retaining Wall, at Gulph Creek Road

Commissioner J. Higgins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner K. Higgins.

Mr. Norcini explained that an easement agreement dated November 29, 1957, between Radnor Township and the then owner of 210 Gulph Creek Road, Miriam C. Dougherty, granted the Township and easement for a storm sewer, in return for maintenance of the stream banks adjacent to the property. Due to erosive forces, the stream bank is encroaching on the dwelling of 210 Gulph Creek Road.

Commissioner Schaefer called the vote, motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

Motion for Authorization to Receive Sealed Bids for the Replacement of the Traffic Signal at Radnor Street Road and Eagle Road

Commissioner J. Higgins made a motion to authorize, seconded by Commissioner Curley. Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner Nagle absent.

CAUCUS - 2012-S-15 (Final) of 615 Newtown Road, Assoc., LP to subdivide existing 13.6 acre parcel into (8) eight residential lots and retain existing residence at 615 Newtown Rd

George Broseman, attorney for the applicant discussed the final development plans. The Applicant submitted a Final Subdivision Plan proposing to subdivide the existing 13.6-acre parcel located in the R-1 Residence District into a 9-lot subdivision.

Commissioner Schaefer thanked the applicants for all their work with the easement. She inquired if the sewer item was resolved. Mr. Broseman responded that the applicant will work with the Township to resolve the issue.

There was discussion in regards to lot 9 of the plan. Mr. Zienkowski inquired if the applicant was willing to contribute an endowment of \$2,500.00 for maintenance.

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

None

PARKS & RECREATION

None

PUBLIC HEALTH

None

PUBLIC SAFETY

None

LIBRARY

None

Old Business

Commissioner J. Higgins inquired about the Rite Aid property at N. Aberdeen and Lancaster Avenue. He asked what the traffic pattern will be coming out of the property. The response was there is an exit onto N. Aberdeen and from Kromer Road.

New Business

None

Public Participation

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer DeStefano