



Upper Uwchlan Township
Board of Supervisors
Workshop
July 13, 2021
4:00 p.m.
Minutes
Approved

Attendees:

Sandy D'Amico, Chair (via phone)

Jamie Goncharoff, Vice-Chair

Jenn Baxter, Member

Kristin Camp, Esq., Township Solicitor

Tony Scheivert, Township Manager

Shanna Lodge, Assistant Township Manager

Gwen Jonik, Township Secretary

Rhys Lloyd, Building Code Official

Dave Leh, P.E., Township Engineer

Chris Williams, P.E., Township Traffic Engineer

The Workshop was held in person, at the Township Building, 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs PA 19425.

Jamie Goncharoff called the Workshop to order at 4:04 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence. No one planned to record the meeting. Mr. Goncharoff announced Executive Sessions were held June 21 and June 23, 2021, regarding legal matters. Sandy D'Amico participated in the meeting via phone. There were 7 citizens in attendance.

J. Snodgrass Lot Consolidation Plan – Introduction

Dave Leh introduced a Lot Consolidation Plan as Rob Hulnick, who is representing Mr. Snodgrass, hadn't yet arrived. The plan combines 2 adjacent lots on Krauser Road, both 5+ acres and both owned by Mr. Snodgrass. One lot contains a house, a garage and pasture. The other lot is a vacant field. Mr. Snodgrass would like to expand his horse pasture. Six waivers are requested, most of which are because there are no improvements or construction planned. Gilmore & Associates reviewed the plan and the waivers and supports granting the waivers except the one from providing the location of existing and proposed street monuments. They recommend the installation of property boundary markers. Jamie Goncharoff asked if the property could possibly be developed in the future. Mr. Leh advised that with minor subdivision plans, a Note is added to the Plan that there can be no further subdivision. The Applicant will seek the Board's approval at the July 19, 2021, meeting.

Park Road – Traffic, Speeding Update

Chris Williams of McMahon Associates, the Township's traffic engineer, had been asked to review traffic conditions on Park Road following complaints of speeding along the upgraded roadway and trail. The posted speed limit is 25 MPH. Speed studies conducted by McMahon Associates and the Police Department show speed issues. Traffic heading westbound toward Marsh Creek State Park are traveling in the upper 30 MPH and eastbound traffic, near Heron Hill, is traveling over 40 MPH. McMahon also conducted a sign inventory and reviewed sight distance, which is at risk due to the speeding.

Mr. Williams provided a drawing that proposes traffic calming measures: a raised pedestrian crossing just outside Marsh Creek State Park with crossing signs and signs ahead, line striping @ Heron Hill entrances, perhaps flexible posts, a crosswalk to the west of Marsh Creek Drive so

that Heron Hill residents can safely cross to the trail, striping, posts and a crossing at the eastern Heron Hill Drive. These proposals involve mostly paint and signage; the only physical change might be the raised crosswalk. These were ideas that need to be reviewed further by Public Works and the Police Department before any action is needed by the Board. Tony Scheivert noted that speed bumps are a maintenance issue; however, since Park Road is traveled by more than just our residents, it might be a good idea.

Comments by resident Steve Senn, Marsh Harbour residents Vince McVeigh, Betty Brosius and Chris Bolenz, and Heron Hill resident Jeff Polk included: police enforcement has been visible and very effective, these ideas are well received, there are areas where vegetation needs to be trimmed back from the trail, which will help pedestrians and vehicles with sight distance, there's a "Share the Road" sign heading eastbound that creates a blind spot when exiting Marsh Harbour, perhaps warning signs at the top of the hill would help, as would those flexible pedestrian signs in the middle of the crosswalks and roadway.

Continued conversation included: Jamie Goncharoff asking about convex mirrors for use at blind spots and suggesting striping the shoulders of the roadway; Tony Scheivert confirming that vegetation management will be included in the plan and that approximately 80% of the speeders haven't been residents. The Police have issued a lot of warnings and some tickets; Sandy D'Amico asking if the shoulder striping, which will narrow the lanes, force cars to slow down; Chris Williams confirmed that the travel lanes will be maintained at safe widths, the striping from the edge does slow traffic, and a post-implementation study would be conducted to measure the impact.

The next step is for the Police Department and Public Works to review this draft plan.

Comcast Cable Franchise Audit, Agreement Renewal – Cohen Law Group's Proposal

Tony Scheivert advised that the current cable franchise agreement with Comcast expires February 2022. Cohen Law Group (CLG) is the leader in the State for franchise fee audits and agreement renewal negotiations. They recently completed our Verizon Franchise Agreement renewal. Mr. Scheivert asked the Board if they wanted CLG to conduct a franchise fee audit and agreement renewal negotiations or just the negotiations. In answer to Jamie Goncharoff's question, 65% of the audits by CLG result in the townships being owed for franchise fees. Mr. Goncharoff still doesn't like charging a franchise fee but if we're going to, it should be equal with the Verizon franchise fee of 5%. He thinks an audit should be conducted and asked if we can add into the agreement renewal that Comcast has to pay for the audit. Kristin Camp thinks that it's in the contract that if there was an underpayment of franchise fees by Comcast, they need to pay for the audit. Mr. Goncharoff doesn't think the Township should have to pay for an analysis that assures their compliance. Sandy D'Amico and Jenn Baxter agreed with Jamie Goncharoff's comments. Tony Scheivert will check to see if Verizon's franchise fee payments were audited. Cohen Law Group's proposal to conduct the Comcast franchise fee audit is \$5,900 and to negotiate the franchise agreement is \$8,900, totaling \$14,800.00. Cohen offered a 10% discount, due to the Firm's longstanding relationship with the Township, bringing the total to \$13,320.00.

Jenn Baxter moved, seconded by Sandy D'Amico, to approve the agreement with Cohen Law Group to conduct the Comcast cable franchise fee audit and negotiate the franchise agreement renewal in the total amount of \$13,320. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Rob Hulnick advised that the Snodgrass Lot Consolidation Plans had been revised to address Gilmore & Associates comments and he'll bring them to the Board's meeting July 19.

Vince McVeigh expressed his appreciation of the township's work on the Park Road speeding issue.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Sandy D'Amico adjourned the Workshop at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen A. Jonik
Township Secretary