



Upper Uwchlan Township
Board of Supervisors Workshop
January 14, 2025
4:00 p.m.
Minutes
Approved

Attendees:

Jenn Baxter, Chair
Andy Durkin, Vice-Chair
Sandy D'Amico, Member

Tony Scheivert, Township Manager
Lindsay Yeager, Assistant Township Manager
Jill Bukata, Township Treasurer
Rhys Lloyd, Codes Enforcement Officer
Anthony Campbell, Zoning Officer
Tom Jones, Police Chief
Mike Esterlis, Public Works Director

Rob Daniels, Brandywine Conservancy
Kristin Camp, Esq., Township Solicitor

Vivian McCardell, Historical Commission
Gerry Stein, Historical Commission

Sally Winterton, Planning Commission
Joe Stoyack, Planning Commission

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

Jenn Baxter called the Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and offered a moment of silence. No one planned to record the Workshop. There were 2 citizens in attendance.

Volunteer Service Tax Credit Ordinance ~ Consider Adoption

Kristin Camp stated that Pa. amended the law in 2016 to allow tax credits to fire and EMS personnel to encourage volunteering. The ordinance that is proposed models the Chester County ordinance that was adopted in 2023. If a volunteer is certified under the County ordinance they can apply to Upper Uwchlan for a credit against township taxes.

The volunteer must own and occupy their residence in Upper Uwchlan. The credit is 100% of township real estate taxes and up to a \$250.00 credit against earned income taxes.

Kristin Camp noted that the ordinance will add a new Article 3 and was advertised on January 6 and sent to the Law Library on January 11. Once adopted it must be sent to the State Fire Commissioner.

Andy Durkin moved to adopt **Ordinance #2025-01** allowing for tax credits to Township residents who volunteer with fire and EMS agencies and are certified/eligible through the Chester County Ordinance. Sandy D'Amico seconded. All were in favor.

Local Share Grant Application ~ Authorize Submission via Resolution

Tony Scheivert stated that the township has an opportunity to apply for a grant in the amount of \$413,600 for traffic signal improvements. Board approval is needed to apply.

Andy Durkin moved to approve **Resolution #01-14-25-01** authorizing the Township Manager and the Public Works Director to execute documents for this Grant Application. Sandy D'Amico seconded. All were in favor.

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator ~ Appointment

Jamie Goncharoff, who has held the position of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator since 2016, has resigned. Steve Hirsh has applied for the position.

Andy Durkin moved to appoint Steve Hirsh; Sandy D'Amico seconded and all were in favor.

Open Session

Open Session was held at this point since the members of the Historic Commission who were attending for the Village Design discussion were not yet in attendance.

Ryan Spadaro of 709 Pond View Way brought to the Board's attention that there has been an orange fence on his property for the past 20+ years – left from the developer and the area was never conveyed to the Township. Kristin Camp stated that the township should have an easement to take this area over. Tony has been working with Kristin on this issue. Mike Esterlis stated that Public Works will clean up the area in the spring.

Updated Village Design Guidelines (VDG), Village Concept Plan (VCP), Historic Resource Protection Plan, and Comprehensive Plan (CompPlan) ~ Discussion

Sally Winterton, Joe Stoyack, Vivian McCardell and Gerry Stein joined the discussion.

Jenn Baxter stated that chapter 4 was reviewed by the Board and they created a "red lined version" of the original document. Discussion followed on the following areas:

- Page 22 – the term "historic landscape and view sheds" – Vivian thought this was ambiguous. Kristin Camp noted that it must be specific and apply to the same property and not an adjacent owner's property. She suggested that it could be called, "landscaping surrounding historic resources".
- Section 1.2 –Vivian thought that the term " incorporates the Village Concept Plan by reference" is confusing.
- "Historic impact requirements" is ambiguous
- Sally Winterton commented that the historic village of Byers and Eagle should be clearly defined
- It was agreed to strike section 1.1.2
- Section 1.1.3 – discussion on what makes historic resources " ... potentially eligible for historic designation"
- There was a discussion on demolition by neglect and what measures can be included to prevent it. Andy Durkin brought up a real-life example and the issues surrounding it. It was suggested to add specific criteria for demolition of older structures.
- Jenn Baxter stated that when the Township can buy properties that are historic and it helps to provide open space it's a win for the township, but the township should not buy properties just to keep dilapidated historic properties from demolition. A recent survey of residents showed that adding open space is the top priority of residents. Protecting historic resources was third on the survey but was a distant third.

- There was a discussion about the age requirement for historic structures to be considered historic
- Vivian McCardell will check with Bob Wise about his concerns about archeological sites
- There was a discussion about funding and the possibility of obtaining grant funding

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the Workshop was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Bukata
Township Treasurer