

**East Pikeland Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting
May 7, 2019**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on May 7, 2019 at the Township Building, 1158 Rapps Dam Road, Kimberton. Present were Chairman Ron Graham, Vice Chairman Rusty Strauss and Township Manager Kim Moretti. Supervisor Ben Campbell was absent.

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Graham seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence

- The township received a letter from an elected official in West Easton Borough, Northampton County relative to the Right-to-Know Act and its impact on local government agencies. Mrs. Moretti reported that there has been an uptick in the number of commercial related RTK requests, which can be time consuming for staff to respond to. She would welcome a change in the RTK law to relieve some of the burdens created by nuisance and commercial requests.
- A letter was received from resident Robert Davis regarding the proposed Altair Ecovillage project.

Department Reports

Township Manager – Kim Moretti reported that the township received the Phase 2 environmental report for the Crouse property and the soil testing was clear with no additional testing needed. In April she participated in a Route 23 Road Safety Audit with PennDOT, SEPTA and municipal representatives. The purpose was to view each intersection and offer comments for improvement of traffic flow and safety. The topic of the monthly Safety Committee meeting was Mental Health and Stress in the Workplace. 2 grant applications were submitted in April – one to DCNR for open space acquisition funds for the Crouse property and the other to the Schuylkill Highlands for funding a Master Site Plan for the Crouse property.

Public Works – Posted

Police Department – Officer Ken Smith provided statistics for April: 216 complaints, including 3 DUIs, 2 drug arrests, 2 assaults, and 8 felony/misdemeanor arrests. There were 10 accidents and 42 traffic citations issued. Officer Corbo participated in an NRA Weapons Certification class. Officers participated in the Coffee with a Cop program at O’Gradys.

Park & Recreation – Jerry Miller reported that the Park & Rec Board has had a busy spring that included: Graham property clean-up, Easter Egg Hunt at Kimberton Park, and Tree Planting along

the French Creek. He publically thanked John Yeager for digging 200 holes for the tree planting. Volunteers were then able to plants 200 trees in 2 hours. It was a great volunteer effort. There are more recreational activities planned all summer and event handouts were available in the back of the meeting room.

Environmental Advisory Council – Milissa Hirst reported that 3 volunteers have resigned from the EAC since January, so they are actively recruiting replacements. EAC projects include: Bird Town designation, Ready for 100 resolution, an E-Newsletter, a table display at the Kimberton Fair, a Bird Walk scheduled for May 11 and educating the township on the spotted lanternfly.

Resident Barry Fry asked what is being done to get rid of the spotted lanternfly. Milissa responded that the State is still learning about them and trying to figure out how to eradicate them.

Resident Helena VanVliet asked if the township was removing the Tree of Heaven, the type of tree that the pest feeds on. Terry Brett commented that he has several of these trees on the rear of his property near the park amphitheater and the Public Works crew had indicated they plan to remove them when they are removing trees from the park.

Old Business

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to approve placing the Graham Property under a full conservation easement with a conservation organization, as recommended by the Open Space Committee.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to appoint Patrick Jennings and Lori Howell to the Open Space Committee with term expiring 12/31/19.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to appoint Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly and Emily Gorge to the Open Space Committee with term expiring 12/31/20.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to accept the resignation of Zachary Rubinich from the Environmental Advisory Council, effective immediately.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to appoint Janet Burgoon to the Environmental Advisory Council with term expiring 12/31/22.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to approve submission of a grant application to the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Initiative to fund a Master Site Plan for the Crouse Property.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to appoint John Snook of Innovative Planning & Conservation as a consultant to the Planning Commission to advise on a low impact and conservation development project.* Mr. Graham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to award the 2019 Road Equipment Rental Contract to Dan Malloy Paving, Inc. with a low bid of \$65,550.* Mr. Graham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Moretti reported that this was the only bid received.

Mrs. Moretti reported that 3 bids were received for the 2019 Chip Seal Contract:

Asphalt Industries	\$3.51 per square yard
Asphalt Maintenance Solutions	\$3.47 per square yard
Martin Paving, Inc.	\$3.38 per square yard

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to award the 2019 Chip Seal Contract to Martin Paving, Inc. with a low bid of \$3.38 per square yard application.* Mr. Graham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to approve RESOLUTION 2019-11, granting a Certificate of Appropriateness for 1300 Hares Hill Road for commercial signage, as recommended by the Historical Commission.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Graham and passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to approve RESOLUTION 2019-12, granting a Certificate of Appropriateness for 2123 Kimberton Road for a new standing seam metal roof, as recommended by the Historical Commission.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Graham and passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to approve ORDINANCE NO. 189, creating provisions for the keeping of meadows.* Mr. Graham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to approve ORDINANCE No. 2019-13, expressing opposition to PA House Bill 349, requiring municipalities enforcing the PA Uniform Construction Code through utilization of third party agencies to retain two third party agencies to act on behalf of the MUNICIPALITY.* Mr. Strauss seconded the MOTION and it passed unanimously.

Discussion

Terry Brett from Kimberton Whole Foods was present to request that they be allowed to have alcohol in Kimberton Park during their employee appreciation event on June 2, 2019. This is the second year of the event. The alcohol will be served on the KWF property and with permission would be brought into the park to view the entertainment in the amphitheater. There were no incidents at the 2018 event.

Mr. Graham made a *MOTION to approve the request from Kimberton Whole Foods to allow alcohol in Kimberton Park during their employee appreciation event on June 2, 2019.* Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed.

Helena VanVliet, resident of Kimberton Road, was present to voice her concerns about the condition of historic structures in Kimberton Village – namely the wood pile across from her property, and the post office and the Earthspeak buildings where the roofs have been covered by unsightly tarps. She has now learned that the Earthspeak roof is scheduled for replacement in June and that Jeff Effgen will have the wood pile removed by the end of May. She asked what actions the township is taking to ensure that these historic buildings are well cared for.

Mrs. Moretti reported that the Zoning Officer had previously been in touch with the owner of the post office building and he came to the Historical Commission to request permission to replace the roof with asphalt shingles. The Historical Commission denied the request and the owner did not pursue approval of a different material. The Zoning Officer recently followed up with notification to the owner informing them that they need to remove the tarp and repair the roof by the end of June. If the owner fails to act, an enforcement notice will be sent. Jonathan Gayl reported that he has spoken with the owner of the post office property and that he has plans to fix the roof. Jonathan further commented that the Demolition by Neglect provision in the zoning ordinance is hard to enforce and gets into property rights issues.

Helena responded that the process takes too long and the township needs to take further action.

Helena VanVliet also commented about the trees that have been removed by property owners in the Village and asked the township to require owners to plant new ones. Mr. Graham responded that property owners must obtain a tree removal permit, however it does not require property owners to plant new trees. Helena suggested that a community project be organized to plant trees in the Village.

Alex Gravesen suggested that the Tree of Heaven should be cut down instead.

Public Comment

Helena VanVliet commented that the new crosswalk signage at Kimberton Whole Foods is effective and she would like to see another one added on Kimberton Road. She also asked if the stop sign at Coldstream Road and Kimberton Road could be moved to the other corner of the intersection to encourage traffic to stay on Coldstream Road instead of going onto Kimberton Road. Mr. Graham responded that both of these roads are state roads, requiring a traffic study and permission from PennDOT.

Alex Gravesen commented that Kimberton Village needs more sidewalks. Mr. Graham responded that this opens a broader topic about Kimberton. The township's plan is when commercial property owners go through the land development process that they will be required to add sidewalks and the township would follow with other infrastructure. The township does have some funds reserved for improvements which will be initiated after Village property owners act first.

Alex Gravesen asked if the township could post signage at the one lane bridges (Rapps Dam and Hares Hill) to inform drivers to cross three at a time. Mr. Graham responded that these are both State owned bridges and that signage would not be legal to post, nor would it be enforceable. Terry Brett responded that he is concerned about road rage issues with the one lane bridges and that

something should be done before someone is hurt. Mrs. Moretti stated that PennDOT has placed traffic lights on other bridges and she will investigate that for East Pikeland bridges.

Steve Penzone of Spring City Road asked about the activity on the Crouse property behind his house. Mr. Graham responded that the township is in the process of purchasing the property as open space which is a great resolution for the township in that it prevents a large development and a high impact in the northern part of the township. The township has received a \$1.2M grant from Chester County to help pay for the acquisition. After this purchase 22% of the township will be under protection.

Steve Penzone asked when the property would be maintained because he has tall grass along his rear property line. Mrs. Moretti responded that the same farmer who farmed the property last year would be back to plant corn and soybeans.

Mr. Strauss reported that Chester County just held a 30th Anniversary of the open space program, which was a model for the preservation movement statewide. A report “Return on the Environment” quantifies the value and cost effectiveness of open space. Mr. Graham reminded the audience that when he and Mr. Strauss ran for office, open space was at the forefront of their campaigns.

Jean Rapp commented that the township is fortunate to have good leadership – including elected officials, police and fire personnel, and volunteers.

Announcements

Ron announced that he and Rusty both attended an event to recognize the preservation of Bryn Coed, however no township business was discussed.

A Guided Bird Walk is scheduled for this Saturday, May 11. Meeting time is 8am at the covered bridge. Bring binoculars.

The audience was reminded that May 21 is Primary Election Day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Submitted by,
Kimberly Moretti, Township Manager