

DAUPHIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

July 10, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Dauphin County Planning Commission was held on Monday, July 10, 2023. The meeting was held in person in the Conference Room at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) offices at 112 Market Street, Harrisburg with additional member participation via Zoom telecommuting software. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Mary Gaiski at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were Mr. Jonathan Bowser, Mr. Nick DiFrancesco, Ms. Mary Gaiski, Mr. John Kerschner, Mr. Gary Lenker, Mr. Fred Lighty, Mr. Robert Spandler. Also present were staff members Mr. Steve Deck and Mr. Jerry Duke.

MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion made by Mr. Spandler, seconded by Mr. Kerschner, the Commission approved 7-0 the minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Lenker, seconded by Mr. Spandler, the Commission approved 7-0 to transfer to TCRPC the Subdivision and Sewage Module review fees in the amount of \$2,328.09 plus the monthly interest for June, 2023. The Treasurer's Report in the form of Financial Statements for the month ending June 30, 2023 was accepted for filing and audit.

REPORTS

- a. Report of Officers: No reports.
- b. Communications & Staff Reports: No items.
- c. Program Progress Report: May 2023

Mr. Deck reported on several transportation-related items that the staff has been working on. Work continues on the Downtown Harrisburg circulation /Market Street 2-way study and the CAT transfer station relocation efforts. This is a coordinated effort between HATS and CAT. A public meeting is scheduled for the Market Street Bridge renovations on June 12 at the Wormleysburg Municipal Building. A second public meeting is to be scheduled at the end of July at the Harrisburg City offices.

Work continues on the active transportation plan with the review and analysis of existing bicycle and pedestrian plans. The staff is also working on the safety plan (Safe Streets for All). A coordinating committee meeting is scheduled for June 14th. Mr. Deck reported there was a 62 percent increase in online viewership of the TCRPC Twitter account. Most of the increased viewership was regarding the posts on affordable housing.

Mr. Deck updated the Commission on a meeting held with a representative from Senator Fetterman's office to discuss the possibility of a regional infrastructure analysis.

- d. Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Report:
The information was reviewed.
- e. Committees:
The next Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP) meeting has not been finalized. It will be either July 25th or August 3rd.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Subdivision/Land Development Matters
 - 1. Approvals
 - a. Jefferson Twp/Jackson Township – Anthony and Virginia Margerum Subdivision Plan

Mr. Duke indicated that the application is located in parts of Jackson Township and parts of Jefferson Township. Most of the development is in Jefferson Township. Approval of the Jefferson Township portion is the responsibility of Dauphin County. The responsibility of the Jackson Township approval is with Jackson Township. Mr. Duke has contacted the Township Engineer for each of the Townships and is working through the review with them. At this point, the plan should be accepted for review, thereby initiating the 90-day Dauphin County Planning Commission Review period.

On a motion by Mr. Spandler, seconded by Mr. Kerschner, the Commission voted 7-0 to accept the plan for review.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Subdivision/Land Development Matters
 - 1. Review/Comments

On a motion by Mr. Kerschner, seconded by Mr. Spandler, the Commission voted 7-0 to ratify staff review of the ten (10) applications.

- b. Zoning Amendments
 - 1. Middletown Borough – R1 Residential, Single Family Residential Low Density to C1 Commercial District Shopping

Mr. Duke gave a brief overview of the petition and the staff review.

Mr. Kerschner asked why staff commented as opposed to providing a positive or negative recommendation. During the resulting discussion, staff explained why they only provided comments on this application, and not an official recommendation one way or another.

On a motion by Mr. Spandler, seconded by Mr. Kerschner, the Commission voted 7-0 to provide comments as provided by staff of the proposed zoning amendment.

c. Intergovernmental Reviews

1. Derry Township – Hershey Lumberyard LLC
2. Lower Paxton Township – Allentown Boulevard Safety Improvements

On a motion by Mr. Lenker, seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco, the Commission voted 7-0 to vote on all applications in one action and to indicate plan consistency for each of the applications.

d. Sewer Modules

1. Lower Paxton Township – Nissley Property
2. Derry Township – Hershey Hills Preserve and Estates

On a motion by Mr. Spandler, seconded by Ms. Gaiski, the Commission voted 7-0 to ratify staff comments on the sewer modules.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

a. Other items

1. Ms. Gaiski led a discussion regarding the modification of the bylaws. The last time they were updated was 1991. Modifications for consideration were related to allowing voting and conducting business via remote access; the use of Modern Rules of Order to conduct business; and to clear up any questions regarding ex officio members voting. It was the consensus of the Commission to have staff put together language for consideration as possible bylaw additions. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
2. Mr. Deck said he received a request to add a letter of support for PennDOT seeking federal funding for the repair and improvements to South Bridge.

On a motion by Mr. Lenker, seconded by Mr. Spandler, the Commission voted 7-0 to provide a letter of support for seeking Federal Funds for the South Bridge project.

3. Mr. Kerschner announced that he attended a Dauphin County Conservation District County event on farmland preservation in South Hanover Township. With the protection of this farm, using the Agricultural Conservation Easement

Purchase Program, Dauphin County has now preserved over 20,000 acres of farmland. He commended the Conservation District staff and all others associated with the program in meeting the acreage milestone.

There were no additional items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023.**

The meeting will be in the Dauphin County Veteran's Memorial Office Building's Second Floor for those wishing to meet in person. The meeting will also be available to the public and Commission members via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh First
Secretary