

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin - Absent
Kathleen Hunsicker
Tessie McNeely

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Interim Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
James Hersh, Gilmore Associates Township Engineer
Helen Lam, McMahan Traffic Engineer
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Board of Supervisors met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of personnel and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Vander Zwan, 6 Richards Way, asked for an update to his previous concerns regarding cell towers being installed to improve cell service in the area. Ms. Gleason explained that it would be late spring before we had any answers from Rise-Up Towers. Mr. Vander Zwan then asked if the BOS had seen the small cell service devices on telephone poles and if they would consider doing that, in lieu of a cell tower. Ms. Duckett stated that she will ask township staff to look into this. Mr. Vander Zwan stated he will ask those that signed his petitions for cell service to continue calling their carriers to complain in hopes that the carriers will participate with Rise Up to put a tower in place.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Authorization to Advertise an Amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Relating to Tree Preservation, Maintenance and Replacement

The Building and Zoning Subcommittee has recommended this ordinance to address concerns of tree cutting during subdivision and land development projects within the township. Ms. McNeely asked

if this applies to noxious trees, as we do have those in the township and they should be removed. Mr. Stein clarified that this ordinance will only relate to properties going through the land development process. Mr. Twersky made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker authorizing advertisement and to start the required review process. Motion passed 4-0.

Authorization to Start the Ordinance Amendment Process and Advertise an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Regulating Flag Lots

The Building and Zoning Subcommittee has recommended this ordinance which will require all access strips serving a flag lot to have a minimum width of 50 feet and a length not to exceed 300 feet, as measured from the street right-of way to the point where the lot achieves the minimum required width. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker authorizing advertisement and to start the required review process. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Easement from Beacon Capital for Public Access to and Maintenance of Public Fitness Courts at Spring House Innovation Park

There were no questions or comments regarding this easement agreement, which will allow for public use of the fitness courts located at 727 Norristown Road owned by Beacon properties. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve the easement. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Traffic Signal Easement Agreement from the YMCA for Improvements on McKean Road, Subject to Language Changes to be Approved by the Township Solicitor

There were no questions or comments regarding this easement that will permit traffic signal improvements at 1325 McKean Road. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the easement subject to language changes to be approved by the Township Solicitor. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Traffic Signal Easement Agreement from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for Improvements on McKean Road

There were no questions or comments regarding this traffic signal easement that grants access, construction, installation and any other work necessary to operate and maintain traffic signal devices at 1400 McKean Road. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the easement. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of a Temporary Construction Easement from Lower Gwynedd Township to 727 Norristown Road, LP. for Improvements on McKean Road

There were no questions or comments regarding the temporary construction easement that allows access for improvements at the intersection of McKean Road and Stone House Road. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the easement. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of a Traffic Signal Easement from 727 Norristown Road, LP. To Lower Gwynedd Township for Improvements on McKean Road

Ms. Gleason made note that there was a correction to this agenda item. Mr. Twersky asked for clarification regarding the traffic signal, as there should not be a flashing light. Ms. Lam stated that there will be a flashing beacon at the YMCA only. Ms. Duckett wanted a guarantee that this information is correct. Mr. Hersh stated that the information is in the PennDOT permit. Ms. Gleason

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suggested a short presentation from Mr. Dixon at the next meeting for clarification on this project. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the traffic signal easement. Motion passed 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Appointments to Volunteer Boards and Commissions

Ms. Duckett explained that due to the resignation of Susan Smith-Oscilowski from the EAC there is now an opening. Brenda Doll submitted an application and currently serves as an associate member. Ms. Duckett made a motion to appoint Ms. Doll to the EAC for a one-year term, which will complete Ms. Oscilowski's term. Ms. Hunsicker seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

The Board received a letter for the Wissahickon Library regarding the appointment of Linda Kennedy to the Library Board for a three-year term. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to appoint Linda Kennedy to the Library Board for a three-year term. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Proposals for Ingersoll Baseball Field Drainage Improvements and Conduit Installation

Mr. Hersh stated that he and Ms. Worman met with Hummer Turfgrass Systems regarding the planned improvements to the baseball fields at Ingersoll Park. Hummer is a member of Costars; therefore, the project will not require the public bidding process. Weather permitting, the fields could be completed before spring, but it is more likely that the project will start in August and be ready for the fall season. The Little League is in agreement with this proposal. The total proposed cost for repairs is \$62,550. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve the proposal for improvements to the baseball fields at Ingersoll Park. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval to Buy Greendisk Receptacles to Recycle "technotrash"

The EAC is seeking approval to work with Greendisk to recycle CD's, floppy disks, memory sticks and other difficult to recycle items. The "technotrash" recycling will run on the same schedule as the battery collection drives. The total cost will be \$350, which will cover three collection boxes, shipping, processing and recycling of the products. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely approving the purchase of the receptacles for technotrash. Motion passed 4-0.

Amended Agenda Item- Authorization to Obtain Membership in the WeConserve Organization for EAC Member Training

Ms. Duckett made a motion to amend the agenda to add authorization for an EAC membership. Ms. Hunsicker seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Gleason stated that the EAC would like a membership to WeConservePA. WeConservePA helps people care for, wisely use, and enjoy what nature offers. They help organizations to effectively and efficiently conserve land, protect and restore waterways, implement sustainable practices, and connect people to the outdoors. The membership is \$250. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett authorizing membership. Motion passed 4-0.

Authorization to Advertise Special Events Ordinance

Mr. Stein stated that this ordinance will permit a procedure for large events of 100 people or more with the exception of weddings, funerals and yard sales. There are no criminal penalties if there is a

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violation, but a person can be fined. There will be a form to complete and an application fee. The BOS had a conversation as not everyone is in agreement and some have concerns as this could and will violate a person's first amendment rights. Ms. Duckett explained that the intent of this ordinance is to maintain the community's health and safety. Currently there is no permit required or procedures for large events. This will allow both police and EMS to be aware and available should an issue arise. Some concerns noted were noise restrictions, legislating something that does not need to be, whether simple guidelines could be established for large events, and the necessity of an ordinance. Kathy Morris, 6 Gypsy Way, asked what happens should an incident occur and they come back to the township. This ordinance will allow internal communication, so all departments are aware. Ms. Duckett made a motion seconded by Mr. Twersky to table this item, as Ms. Martin was not in attendance and feels she should give her input regarding this agenda item. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Deed of Dedication of Sunneytown Pike Right-of-Way to Montgomery County as Part of the Springhouse Intersection Improvements

This deed of dedication is part of phase two for the Springhouse Intersection Improvement project. Mr. Twersky would like certainty that trees will not be removed along Norristown Road. There was also confusion regarding which side of the intersection this right of way applied to. Ms. Gleason again suggested a short presentation from McMahan to clarify this project and what the improvements will look like at its completion. The BOS agreed that this would be helpful. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the deed of dedication. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval to submit Green Light Go Grant Application to Modernize the Traffic Signal at Trewellyn Avenue/Old Penllyn Pike & Penllyn Pike

This project will modernize the traffic signal at Trewellyn Ave/Old Penllyn Pike and Penllyn Pike. The grant application will total \$253,776 with a match of \$63,444 coming from the Townships Traffic Impact Fund. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker authorizing the submittal of the Green Light Go Grant. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Electronics Recycling and Shredding Event on April 1, 2023

The township's annual Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling Event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 1st. Township staff are seeking approval to move forward using Richter Mobile Shredding in the amount of \$2,400 for paper shredding and SAMR for electronic recycling in the amount of \$4,450. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the proposals for the recycling event and set the date of April 1, 2023. Motion passed 4-0.

Receipt of Invoice History - October to December 2022

The BOS received the Invoice history for October 2022 totaling \$684,087.81, November 2022 totaling \$390,075.28 and December 2022, totaling \$1,052,847.48. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to accept receipt of the invoice history. Motion passed 4-0.

Financials YTD and Balance Sheet - December 2022

The BOS received the Year-to-date financials for December 2022. There were no questions or comments.

Approval of Minutes - December 13, 2022 and January 6, 2023

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The BOS received the minutes for both the December 13, 2022 regular meeting and January 6, 2023 re-organization meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve both sets of minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Hunsicker stated that the officers were nominated and an update on the master plan was discussed.

EAC – Mr. Twersky stated that they discussed the highlights of 2022 which included the bird walks, charging stations, tree giveaway, battery collection events and ramp cleanups. They also discussed the plans for 2023, which include Greendisk, a composting workshop, stormwater control and repairs to the Penllyn pollination garden.

Historic Committee – Ms. Duckett stated that they reviewed the Ingersoll Inspection Report and set a goal for identifying historical markers. Ms. McNeely referenced the committee minutes in the manager’s report regarding the Rohm and Haas building. She is hoping that it can be preserved.

EMS – The fire companies discussed their capital improvements and needs. They are to submit a list to Ms. Gleason by March 1st of their requests. This will then allow for real conversations at the April meeting. There was also a discussion regarding tax credits to the volunteer firefighters. There is a real estate tax credit and an EIT tax credit available. A flat maximum would have to be established by the township and would only apply to those who are Lower Gwynedd residents. Providing a stipend was also discussed, however the EIT tax credit would be the best route to go. Al Comly is going to Ambler borough council and hopes to encourage them to start the same process.

STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Gleason – The EAC will hold a Backyard Birds Talk on February 10th. Tickets are available to purchase for the Flower Show. There will be tennis and pickle ball clinics in the spring and Sandi Feight has started the hiring process for Camp Counselor’s.

Chief Kenny – The CRU participated in a walk for MLK Day where they gave out hot chocolate. There was also a community breakfast at Normandy Farm that five invited students attended. They have done a scam presentation at Springhouse Estates. They will be going back to Gwynedd Estates and are working with Foulkeways to set a date. The police department has been receiving donations from residents for the CRU.

Mr. Zollers – Public Works has been working with the CRU and PECO to clean up the brush at the intersection of Gypsy Hill and Plymouth Road to make it safe. They have also moved the stop sign at John’s Lane to make it easier to see when turning. Ms. McNeely thanked him for installing the signs around the creeks.

Ms. Worman – There will be a comp plan meeting on Monday, January 30th.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

There were no comments from the BOS other than Go Birds! from Mr. Twersky.

Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta

Board of Supervisors Minutes
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Michelle Farzetta
Administrative Assistant