

EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2019

The March 18, 2019 Regular Meeting took place in the Township meeting room at 566 Beaumont Road, Devon. Supervisors present included: Betsy Fadem, Chair; Christopher D. Polites, Vice Chair; James W. Oram, Jr.; Karl A. Romberger, Jr.; and Marc J. Heppe. Also attending were Dan Fox, Township Manager; Eugene C. Briggs, Jr., AICP, CZO, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Planning and Zoning; Dave Obzud, Police Chief; Bill DeFeo, Finance Director; Kate Jones, Administrative Coordinator; and Andrew D. H. Rau, Esquire, Township Solicitor.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fadem called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Mrs. Fadem announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the public meeting to discuss matters of personnel, litigation, and real estate.

BOARD MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of Declaration for 166 South Devon Avenue and 600 Dorset Road

Mr. Rau introduced the Board to this item. The Applicant, Middletown Mortgage Associates, filed a final minor subdivision plan seeking to consolidate a portion of the property that it owns located at 166 South Devon Avenue with property owned by John W. Benson, III and Amy Benson located at 600 Dorset Road. After receiving the final minor subdivision plan which sought to change the lot line between these two property boundaries, Township staff recognized that what the Applicant is trying to accomplish was to undo a subdivision plan which was approved by the Township in 2007. The 2007 subdivision plan, contemplated that a portion of the property at 600 Dorset Road would be merged with the lot at 166 S. Devon Avenue to create a larger lot. This parcel transfer never occurred and now Applicant wants the property boundaries for 166 S. Devon Avenue and 600 Dorset Road to revert to what they were prior to the recording of the 2007 subdivision plan.

Instead of considering another subdivision proposal, both lot owners have worked to execute a Declaration agreeing that the 2007 subdivision plan is no longer was valid or in effect. Township Staff and the Township Solicitor have no objection to the Declaration being recorded and the Board Chairman signing the Consent at the end of the Declaration.

After discussion, Mr. Heppe made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Declaration for 166 South Devon Avenue and 600 Dorset Road consenting to the recordation of the Declaration in the Recorder of Deeds. Mr. Polites seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Proposal to Place ‘No Parking Sign from Here to Corner’ on Portion of Berwyn Avenue near Midland Avenue

Chief Obzud updated the Board on this item, which was first before the Board at its Public Meeting on March 04, 2019. It was tabled to ensure all appropriate parties had been notified of the proposal. This has been confirmed and the item is back before the Board for consideration. Traffic Safety Officer Boyd has received several complaints regarding a traffic hazard for drivers attempting to turn from Midland Avenue onto Berwyn Avenue, and has identified the cause to be street parking on the north side of Berwyn Avenue. To rectify this hazard, he is requesting the addition of a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign posted approximately 40 feet in from Midland Avenue on the north side of Berwyn Avenue. This will allow for safe passage for commuters and first responders turning onto Berwyn Avenue from Midland Avenue.

After discussion, Mr. Oram made a motion to authorize the Township Solicitor to draft a proposed ordinance for the placement of a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign posted approximately 40 feet in from Midland Avenue on the north side of Berwyn Avenue and advertise the draft for future Board consideration. Mr. Romberger seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Grass Cutting Contract Award

Mr. Curley updated the Board on this item and suggested the Board authorize the execution of an agreement to the lowest bidder for a two year contract.

After discussion, Mr. Heppe made a motion to authorize Staff to execute an agreement with the lowest bidder to perform the services as specified and subject to receipt of an acceptable performance bond. Mr. Polites seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution 2019-12: Dorset Green Deed of Dedication for Right-of-Way

Mr. Briggs updated the Board on this item. On August 18, 2008, the Board of Supervisors conditionally approved a final subdivision plan for the subdivision of a single residential lot into four single-family detached dwelling lots. As part of this approved plan, additional right-of-way for Dorset Road is offered for dedication. Frederick Bissinger, developer of Dorset Green, is now offering to the Township additional right-of-way along Dorset Road. The Deed of Dedication is acceptable to both the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor.

After discussion, Mr. Heppe made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 2019-12 accepting dedication of additional right-of-way along Dorset Road. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution 2019-13: 616 Leopard Road Deed of Dedication for Right-of-Way

Mr. Briggs updated the Board on this item. On September 17, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) conditionally approved a minor final subdivision plan for the subdivision of a single residential lot into two lots for the construction of two new single-family detached dwellings. As part of this approved plan, additional right-of-way for Leopard Road is offered for dedication, as the Road is identified as a Key Corridor for bicycles in the Township's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. T.R. Moser, owner of 616 Leopard Road, is offering to the Township additional property along Leopard Road to help the Township establish the right-of-way necessary to accommodate future bicycle mobility improvements. The Deed of Dedication is acceptable to both the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor.

After discussion, Mr. Heppe made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 2019-13 accepting dedication of additional right-of-way along 616 Leopard Road. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and Louise Story, of 1060 Buttonwood Road asked a question related to a County review for this project. Mr. Briggs stated that this item is being handled by Chester County. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Curbside Electronic and Clothing Recycling Service

Ms. Jones introduced the Board to this item and provided an overview of the Curb My Clutter (CMC) program, which offers residents a pick-up service for recyclables, such as textiles and electronics. After discussion, the Board asked that the Solicitor review the proposed one-year contract and that it be considered as an action item at a future Board meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Finance

Mr. DeFeo outlined the contents of his memo, dated March 18, 2019.

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Briggs outlined the contents of his memo, dated March 11, 2019. He noted that the Village of Berwyn Parking Study Task Force will next meet on March 19, 2019 to review and recommend its final study. This study should be before the Board of Supervisors for consideration at its April 15, 2019 public meeting. He also noted that the Devon Center Task Force will be holding a Community Visioning Workshop on Thursday, March 28 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Police

Chief Obzud discussed various police related matters. As liaisons to Neighborhood Watch, Mr. Heppe and Mr. Polites state that they had nothing report because the group had not met. Mr. Oram and Mr. Romberger, liaisons to the Police Department, stated that they recently met with the Chief to discuss personnel matters.

After these reports, Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and Louise Story, of 2060 Buttonwood Road, asked the Chief if the Department will participating the annual aggressive driving awareness campaign and he stated that it would be.

Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments.

REGULAR TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Minutes

Mr. Heppe made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 04, 2019. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and there were no comments. The motion unanimously.

Authorize Payment of Bills

Mr. Oram made a motion to authorize payment of the bills totaling \$507,340.31, date ending March 13, 2019. Mr. Heppe seconded the motion. The Board questioned the staff on miscellaneous aspects of the bills. Mr. Romberger requested a detailed report of reimbursable consultant fees and the status of collection. Mrs. Fadem opened the floor to the public and Michael Wacey, of 1049 Beaumont Road, sought clarification regarding facility fees and grant statuses. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Board Policy Committee (James Oram and Betsy Fadem): Mrs. Fadem stated that the Committee met in March to continue discussing draft policy 142 addressing Public Comment in meeting. It will be an action item on the April 01 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Easttown Citizens Advisory Committee (James Oram and Betsy Fadem): Mr. Oram stated they met on March 11 and reviewed next steps for Crisis Communication project, discussed a chartering process for ECAC moving ahead, Hilltop House, and the Emergency Services Plan update.

Historical Commission (Karl Romberger): Mr. Romberger stated that the Commission met in March and continued its discussion on how to enhance the Township's resources and that three members of the public attended and contributed to that discussion.

Library Board (Marc Heppe): Mr. Heppe stated the Library is doing some minor facilities work, hiring new staff, and holding a wine tasting fundraiser at Hilltop House on April 25. In addition, he mentioned that longtime employee Susanne Martin is retiring and that they are considering the best way to honor her for her service.

Municipal Authority (Karl Romberger): Mr. Romberger was attended the meeting in March and a highlight includes that the Township saw its highest peak flows since 2011 in January of 2019.

Park & Recreation Board (Christopher Polites): Mr. Polites updated the Board on the upcoming egg hunt on Saturday, April 13 at 10 am.

Planning Commission (Marc Heppe and Betsy Fadem): Mr. Heppe and Mrs. Fadem noted that the March meeting was cancelled due to lack of applications.

Mr. Oram and Mrs. Fadem reviewed their attendance at the annual CCATO conference.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Fadem said that residents of the existing Stonegate Community in Devon are concerned over confusion that may occur due to the renaming of the Home Properties development on Sugartown Road in Tredyffrin to "Stonegate of Devon." It was determined that there is no action that can be taken due to the new development being located within another Township.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Fadem read the following announcements:

The Devon Center Task Force will hold a Community Vision Open House on Thursday, March 28, 6 to 8 pm, to solicit input from the community regarding the future of the Devon Center District.

The Park and Recreation Board will hold its annual Egg Hunt at Johnson Park on Saturday, April 13, 10 am with a rain date of Sunday, April 14, 11 am.

The following public meetings will be held at the Township Building unless otherwise stated:

- Berwyn Parking Study Task Force on Tuesday, March 19, 4 pm
- Park and Recreation Board on Tuesday, March 19, 7 pm
- Library Board on Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm at Easttown Library
- Next Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, April 01, 7 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Bergquist, of 217 Devon Boulevard, asked that the Township look into a clogged storm drain at 228 Chester Road. Staff responded that it would.

Louise Story, of 2060 Buttonwood Road, asked if the Township regulates materials used for lawn care. It does not.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 08:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Jones
Assistant Township Secretary