

Reading Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
June 7, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Reading Township Planning Commission was held at the Reading Township Municipal Building and called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Alicia Wooters. Planning Commission members in attendance were Gerald Shank, John Biese and Dana Shuman.

Others in attendance included Attorney Susan J. Smith, Solicitor; Virginia J. Thornton, P.E. of Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Andrew Merkel, ACOPD, Robin Heyser of East Berlin Community Center, Zoning Officer Wilbur Slothour Kevin Holtzinger and Jason Phillips, Supervisors of Reading Township.

The May 3, 2021 minutes were approved as written on a motion by Mr. Beise and a second by Mr. Shank, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Robin Heyser, President of East Berlin Community Center spoke about the Community Center's current status and how it could possibly effect Reading Township. EBACC is looking to create a capital campaign and move, possibly building a new facility. Chairman Holtzinger of Reading Township has proposed to donate six acres of land for a new facility. EBACC has confirmed that if they were to need more than six acres Mr. Holtzinger would be willing to sell them further acreage. EBACC wants the Township to know that they are considering that as an option, they also have two other locations not in Reading Township as a possibility for a new facility.

Miscellaneous

Andrew Merkel from ACOPD discussed mixed zoning. He stated that it has been over a decade since the land use model text has been changed. He wanted to clarify that when creating zoning on a property it should be done along natural barriers of the land. Mr. Merkel recommends that the text of the mixed zoning ordinance should be looked at once again. There a new types of residential ordinances, new energy uses, and agri-business uses that could be looked at, added, or revised. Wilbur suggested that Gary Wilt had begun a list of zoning ordinances that need to be addressed. A suggestion was made that a list of the changes should be brought to be discussed at the next PC meeting. Gerald Shank made a motion to have the Solicitor, Zoning Officer and Mr. Merkel to create a list of items to be discussed at the next

meeting on how these ordinances should be addressed. Dana Shuman seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Discrepancies in the Township Fee Schedule were addressed but not an issue for the Planning Commission.

Zoning Officer Wilbur Slothour was at the meeting to discuss §27-504 Open Land Uses and Standards ordinance. The Solicitor suggested that the ordinance needs to have clarification on the property owners rights. Mr. Merkel suggested that ACOPD could come up with some ideas to create a better clarification on the open land space or better way to write the ordinance to make it easier to clearly follow.

Reading Township Secretary Kim Beard stated that the township is eligible for a Parks and Recreation Grant that would match any expenses up to \$25,000.00. She will be meeting on June 29, 2021 to discuss a possible recreational area at the Hampton Baseball Fields. Chairman Holtzinger suggested that the township may need a Parks & Recreation Committee.

John Biese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, Gerald Shank seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiana Mummert
Administrative Assistant