

**READING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting of the Reading Township Planning Commission was held at the Reading Township Municipal Building and called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman John Biese. Planning Commission members in attendance were John Biese, William Bowen, Dana Shuman, Gerald Shank and Alicia Wooters.

Those associated with Reading Township in attendance were Andrew Merkel, Senior Planner for Adams County Office of Planning and Development; and Kelly Duty, Zoning/ Code Enforcement Officer.

No applicants/ public were in attendance.

The annual organization of the Planning Commission was discussed. On a motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Shank, the Planning Commission members will hold the same offices (John Biese, Chairman; William Bowen, Vice-Chairman; Dana Shuman, Secretary), as well as the Planning Commission will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month (except: September 3, 2014 and November 5, 2014), and continue to begin their meetings at 6:30 pm; motion carried unanimously.

December 2, 2013 minutes were approved as written on a motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Ms. Wooters; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT

No Subdivision and Land Development Plans were discussed.

CODIFICATION

REVISED FINAL DRAFT

The anticipated timeline was not discussed because the Township Solicitor was not able to attend the meeting. The Planning Commission is looking forward to its adoption.

MISCELLANEOUS

LMPOA DEP GENERAL PERMIT-11

The Planning Commission reviewed Lake Meade Property Owners Association's application to DEP for General Permit-11 for the repair and maintenance to existing rip-rap at Walnut Cove, Mud Run Recreation Area, Mud Run Bridge Pier, Shorewood Retreat and the Marina. The purpose of the notice is to inform the Township of LMPOA's intent to apply for the permit and to give the Township an opportunity to review based on sound land use practices and planning efforts while considering the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. From this perspective the Planning Commission is in support of the maintenance and repair of existing safeguards which prevents the washing way of the shoreline and sedimentation of the lake. The Planning Commission did not have any comments beyond acknowledging the repair and maintenance is necessary to keep the Lake healthy. On a motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Ms. Shuman, the Planning Commission stated they had no comments to submit to DEP for the General Permit-11; motion carried unanimously.

ADAMS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION EASEMENT

Zoning/ Code Enforcement Officer presented the Planning Commission with the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board letter on the impending easement acquisition. The Township received a letter on the easement acquisition of the Romaine A. Alwine farm located at 240 Markle Run Road. The farm consists of 93.53 acres. The Planning Commission is please this farm is up for easement acquisition and recommends the easement acquisition. This will preserve productive farmland and maintain agricultural support operations in Reading Township. On a motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Shank, the Planning Commission is in support of the easement acquisition of the farm for preservation purposes; motion carried unanimously.

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM GRANT

Last month Mrs. Cathy Overholtzer of 230 Conewago Drive stated she and her husband would like to apply for a FEMA grant to elevate their home with funding from the Hazard Mitigation Program. A day or two following the Planning Commission meeting another property owner, Martha Browning, of 1066 North Browns Dam Drive spoke with staff about hopes of applying for the same grant. In 2012 the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was reformed to phase out subsidies for second homes, limit server repetitive losses, required rates to cover actual losses and create a reserve fund. The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is a pre-disaster mitigation program funded annually from the NFIP. The goal is to reduce or eliminate claims under NFIP. Only homes and businesses insured by the NFIP are eligible for funding which is very limited and competitive. Applications must come from state, local governments, Indian Tribes, or other eligible tribal organizations; individuals cannot apply directly for the program. The Township has an approved local flood mitigation plan, which is necessary before a project can be approved. The Township had to send in a single Letter of Intent by December 15 for both of the interested parties. The BOS each had to be called on the particular situation and make aware of the Planning Commission supporting Hazard Mitigation.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission was provided with the following information:

1. BOS November 18, 2013 Draft Minutes
2. BOS December 16, 2013 Draft Minutes
3. PSATS News Bulletin
4. PSATS Analysis of Act 89 of 2013: Transportation Funding Package
5. Ag Issues Breakfast: 1/9; 3/6 @ 7:15am
6. PSATS Township Legal Defense Partnership
7. Townships Today Quarterly Newsletter
8. PSATS Educational Conference & Trade Show April 13-16an

There was discussion on transportation funding. According to Mr. Merkle the Transportation Funding Package would not be very helpful to areas like us. It will be most helpful to the heavily populated areas such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The County is developing a new Transportation Improvement Program, which will still include the two projects in Reading Township. The Transportation Funding Package will include a bridge program will benefit a bridge on Route 30 just before entering Gettysburg from the east side. The Planning Commission also discussed the gas tax that is to take effect.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM on a motion by Mr. Shank and seconded by Ms. Wooters; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,
Kelly Duty
Zoning/ Code Enforcement Officer