

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
March 28, 2024
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ATTENDANCE

Members

Kent Spicher, Chair
David Pennepacker
Joshua Yetter Clark
Daniel Firth
Kay Semler
Michele Bair
Thomas Lake
William Campbell

Other

Trevor Weaver, MC Conservation District
Robert Postal, Commissioner
Sam Miller, Newton-Wayne Historical Society
Devon Wagner, Burnham Youth Sports
Kristy Bagrosky, Rothrock playground project
Travis McCullough, Central Keystone Football
Chad Curry, Burnham YS/CKFL
Ron Elliott, Armagh Township
Chuck Miles, Wayne Township

Staff

James Lettiere, Planning Director
Candace Rager, Planning Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Kent Spicher called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Record of Public Attendance

Spicher confirmed all present signed the record of attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Spicher requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2024 meeting. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bair. All members voted aye.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Mifflin County Conservation District

Trevor Weaver, MCCD Executive Director, gave a presentation describing the history and current programs of the Mifflin County Conservation District (MCCD). The MCCD was established in 1956 and is dedicated to conserving the county's natural resources through coordinated and professional guidance, technical assistance and education to the landowners, public agencies, and residents of Mifflin County. Trevor gave a brief overview of the programs run by the MCCD. They include: Chesapeake Bay, Nutrient Management, Farmland Preservation, Dirt/Gravel and

Low Volume Roads, Erosion and Sediment Control, Watershed Assessment and Restoration, Environmental Education, Countywide Action Plan, and the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program. Trevor also provided maps and descriptions of Mifflin County surface waters, impaired streams, focus watersheds, example of a local farm project, and a local stream project success story. The MCCD collaborates with numerous environmental organizations such as the State Conservation Commission (SCC), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Penn State University (PSU), PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic Inc. (HRG), Trout Unlimited (TU), PA Envirothon, and the Mifflin County Commissioners/Planning Office. A copy of Trevor's PowerPoint presentation is provided and available in the MCPC March 2024 meeting minutes.

Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund applicant presentations (Round 2)

There are 8 applicants in Round 2. Two were denied eligibility, and one withdrew the application. The applicants are: Mifflin County Youth Park (new LED lighting), Burnham Youth Sports Association (field improvements – electric & water), Armagh Township walking trail (trail path improvements), Wayne Township (Canal Gatekeepers house fencing), and Rothrock Playground Authority (dugout improvements). Presentations of the proposed projects were given by each applicant. Lettiere stated each project could not be fully funded but requested approval for the recommended amounts of each grant. Spicher requested a motion for approval from the planning commission members. A motion was given by Bair and seconded by Semler. All members voted aye. Lettiere stated once the applications successfully pass through commissioner approval there will be one year to enter into contract with the commissioners and one year to complete the project. A copy of the Act 13 applications and a chart of the amounts recommended is included and available with the MCPC March 2024 meeting minutes.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

There are a total of ten (10) plans submitted for March.

- Five (5) Wright Land Surveying, two (2) Sarge Engineering & Surveying, two (2) Taptich Engineering, one (1) Axis Professional Surveying, LLC
- Nine (9) plans are under municipal ordinance and one (1) under county ordinance.
- Four (4) lot additions, one (1) minor subdivision/non-residential land development, one (1) lot minor land development, three (3) minor subdivision, one (1) minor residential land development

The plans are for Oak Hill Rental Properties, LLC (Decatur Township), Edgewood Estates (Brown Township), David & Angela Kerstetter (Brown Township), Douglas & Trina Thompson (Union Township), David & Gail Gearhart (Wayne Township), John & Annetta Stoltzfus (Oliver Township), Mahlon & SueAnn Yoder/Melvin & Mary Ellen Weaver (Brown Township), Thomas Jr. & Mary Swarey (Union Township), Aquilla Yoder (Menno/Union Township), Christopher Torquato (Armagh Township).

Municipal Subdivision Plans

The committee members reviewed the ten (10) submitted plans. Lettiere did not go over any details of the projects but recommended conditional approval of the comments for the Wayne Township plan and approval of the comments for the other nine plans under municipal ordinance. There was a response from Axis Professional regarding the Aquilla Yoder plan and they provided an adequate response to the review letter comments. Spicher requested a motion for the comments to be accepted for the plans and conditional approval for the Gearhart plan. Semler made a motion to accept as provided. Clark seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Waiver Request approval (Nancy Wertz subdivision-Wayne Township File #2024-02-004)

This plan was tabled last month due to a survey requirement for the cartway. Lettiere and the surveyor conducted the survey and found the cartway to be adequate. Lettiere recommended approval of the subdivision request form with a waiver and conditional approval for the other conditions within the comments. Spicher requested a motion for approval. Firth made a motion for approval and Campbell seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Project Updates

Juniata River Trail Phase II is moving along and the paving of the trail is to start fairly soon. There was some vandalism to the Fulkrad equipment reported to the police. There was concern voiced about the lowest part of the trail being covered with mud when there is a high-water event. There was a suggestion to raise the trail an additional five feet. This suggestion does not prove feasible or cost effective. Signage in this area will be considered a possible best solution.

The comprehensive plan committee is scheduled to meet mid-April to discuss and rank the RFP applicants for action in May.

Lettiere has been attempting to engage other speakers to present at the MCPC meetings. The speaker in May from the PA Game Commission will present on the deer population and chronic wasting disease that is affecting the herds in the state.

Other Business

Next MCPC meeting will be April 25, 2024.

Adjournment

Spicher announced the meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Minutes Approved

Secretary Signature _____ Date _____