

**MINUTES**  
**MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 23, 2023**  
**MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members

Kent Spicher, Chair  
Dan Dunmire, Vice Chair  
Michele Bair, Secretary  
Kay Semler  
Dan Firth  
Dave Pennebaker  
William Campbell  
Joshua Yetter Clark  
Tom Lake

Other

Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming  
Robert Postal, Commissioner

Staff

Candace Rager, Planning Secretary

**Call to Order**

Chair Spicher called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Record of Public Attendance**

Chair Spicher confirmed all present signed the record of attendance.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Spicher requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Firth to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell. All members voted aye. None opposed.

**Mifflin Moves**

Chair Spicher introduced Michelle Brummer from Gannett Fleming. Michelle gave a presentation for the draft report of the *Mifflin Moves!* project. She stated the plan would remain in draft form until it is either accepted or adopted by the Commissioners. The plan is divided into six sections which include an introduction, existing conditions, strategic assessment, vision and goals, active transportation network, and implementing the plan. *Mifflin Moves!* encourages active transportation as a safe and healthy way to move around the county. This plan explores opportunities to improve safety and access, strengthen connections, and expand community amenities for walking, biking, and other forms of human-powered travel. Michelle also explained that the plan identifies a network of existing and to-be-developed walking and bicycling routes and connected communities. These routes can offer safe, convenient trips between everyday destinations and for recreation. The plan also presents a diverse

set of potential pilot projects to improve and expand the network, as well as suggestions for programs to support its use and place for civic activities and events. This plan will be considered for adoption by the Mifflin County Commissioners in late spring. Joining the meeting via zoom was Patricia Meek, Statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator with PennDOT. Patricia stated she was pleased to be a part of the project and be able to help implement the funding for the project. Natasha Manbeck gave her compliments for a job well done so far. Mrs. Semler mentioned the importance of educating the public about pedestrian crossings, the purpose, and use of crosswalks.

Commissioner Postal made comments regarding the public being educated on the buggy community and many safety concerns for them. Michelle stated using the 'narrow lens of safety' to be a possible avenue of communicating with the Amish Community. Mr. Pennebaker shared concerns about the logistics of educating motorists and the buggy community in regards to safety. Mr. Firth suggested for a speed monitor to be placed in strategic areas to make motorists aware of their speed within Amish corridors. Mr. Campbell stated it was important to stay focused on the point of accepting the draft plan at this time and look at the 'nuts and bolts' of the plan at a later time.

Mrs. Semler ask to know at which step in the process is the project. Michelle stated there will be an attempt to adopt the plan as an amendment and that from a contractual standpoint she is required to get a final plan. There is a review process and an opportunity for public comments until May 10<sup>th</sup>. The plan remains a draft until the commissioners make a final decision.

Mr. Clark inquired about advertising and if it had been reviewed by partners. Michelle stated it was reviewed by PennDOT, members of a steering committee, and approximately 26 others who had opportunity to review, make corrections, and comments.

Chair Spicher ask for a motion to accept the draft plan, its distribution for public review, and then forward to the commissioners for adoption. Mrs. Semler voted to move it forward. Mr. Campbell seconded. All voted aye.

### **Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report**

There were Eleven (11) plans submitted to the committee for review from March. Ten (10) plans are under Municipal Ordinance and One (1) under County Ordinance. Six (6) Minor Subdivision, Two (2) Lot Additions, and Three (3) Land Developments. The plans are for Big Valley Cabinets, Inc. (Union Township), Donald P. & Donna G. Goss – Minor Subdivision (Decatur Township), R & T, LLC – Quick Lube & Car Wash (Granville Township), Jess S. & Katie L. Peachey (Brown Township), Emanuel E. & Malinda Hostetler (Brown Township), James Carl Chattin (Decatur Township), Reuben E. & Marianne F. Fisher (Wayne Township), Randall T. & Juli K. Sunderland (Brown Township), Lonnie R. Griffith, Et al. (Lewistown Borough), Orchard Hills Storage Expansion (Derry Township), Black's Hospital Subdivision (Lewistown Borough).

### **Municipal Subdivision Plans**

The committee members previously reviewed the plans. There was brief discussion led by Vice Chair Dunmire regarding the One (1) county plan. There were no major concerns with any of the plans.

Dunmire ask for a motion to give conditional approval to the One (1) county plan. Mr. Firth made a motion. The motion was seconded. All voted aye. Dunmire made a motion to accept the comments on the ten plans under municipal ordinance. Mr. Firth made a motion to accept. The motion was seconded. All voted aye.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Spicher acknowledged there was no public comment.

### **Project Updates**

There was discussion with the members and Commissioner Postal regarding the vacant Planning Director position. Concerns were raised about how subdivision plans would be processed, reviewed, and signed. Other items of concern are the comprehensive plan, hazard mitigation plan, current staff obligations as to how they would be handled in the short or long term. Mrs. Semler requested a priority be put on filling the planning director position and addressing these concerns. Commissioner Postal stated they were looking at a possible consultant to help short term and distributing some of the projects to other departments. He detailed the comprehensive plan, river trail expansion project, and a streetscape project that is in process are of real concern. He assured the planning commission members that the commissioners have this as a top priority.

### **Other Business**

Next meeting will be April 27, 2023.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Spicher adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

### **Minutes Approved**

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Secretary Signature

Date