

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
February 24, 2022
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – MEETING ROOM B

ATTENDANCE

Members

Thomas Lake, Chair
Cyle Vogt, Vice Chair
Kent Spicher, Secretary
Dan Firth
Dave Pennebaker
Kay Semler
Michele Bair
Neal Shawver
Robert Nulton

Other

Jenny Landis – Visitor’s Bureau

Staff

Mark Colussy, Director
Candace Rager, Secretary

Call to Order

Thomas Lake called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Record of Public Attendance

Candace Rager recorded public attendance, the meeting was held in Meeting Room B.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Thomas Lake requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. A motion was made by Robert Nulton to accept the minutes. Kay Semler seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Visitor’s Bureau Presentation

Mark introduced Jenny Landis, the Executive Director of the Visitor’s Bureau. Jenny explained the history, details, and functions of the Visitor’s Bureau and how they are a separate entity from the Chamber of Commerce. She distributed a number of informative directories, booklets and brochures covering many of the local businesses, restaurants, services, wineries, and local attractions. She explained their job is to promote what already exists, not necessarily to create activities and events. Jenny stated there are upwards of 10,000 visitor guides distributed in a year. The latest publication came out just a few months ago, Destination Juniata River Valley, PA. These booklets are mailed out as people request them, they are sent to all of the other visitors’ bureaus in the state, are in all the welcome centers at the state borders, and at some of the turnpike locations near the Harrisburg area. Jenny told us the story about Dr. Rothrock, being a local resident, is instrumental in developing the PA state forest system. Jenny gave the definition of a tourist as ‘anyone who crosses the county line and spends at least a dollar.’ The Visitor’s Bureau spend most of their funds outside the county attempting to attract tourists to the area to bring in ‘fresh’ money.

Annual Dinner Plans and Discussion

Mark offered the opportunity for members to give input as to whether they would like to have an annual dinner. After discussing some ideas and options there was a favorable agreement to hold the dinner. Mark suggested the speaker’s presentation would be catered towards current projects the planning commission and county are working on. The

planning office will begin to make the inquiries and plans to schedule the annual dinner. Mark will forward details to the members as details are determined.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

Seven (7) plans were submitted to the committee for review. Six (6) plans are under Municipal Ordinance, One (1) plan under County Ordinance. Two (2) Minor Subdivision, Four (4) Lot Additions, One (1) Land Development. The plans are for Gabriel & Ashley Newman (Armagh Township), Mahlon & Sue Ann Yoder (Brown Township), Chemgro Warehouse (Brown Township), Mahlon & Esther Peachey (Menno Township), Elmer Lee Sr. & Mary Peachey and Benuel & Tena Swarey (Menno Township), Phares & Hettie Swarey (Union Township), Stewart Irrevocable Grantor Trust (Wayne Township).

Municipal Subdivision Plans

Mark discussed the **Stewart Grantor Trust**, which this plan proposes to create Lot Addition A to be added onto Lot A and become an integral part thereof. No new development is being proposed by this plan. The one addition to be added by the surveyor will be to show where the existing well is located. There are no other concerns regarding this property. Mark explained the **Chemgro Warehouse Addition** plan which is proposing to construct an 11,800 square foot warehouse addition with stormwater management facilities and other site features. This is a simple building addition, nothing unique in this plan. Mark also discussed the **Mahlon Peachey** plan which proposes to create Lot 2 for a single-family residence to be served by on-lot sewage disposal and private well. The residual tract, Lot 1, has an existing residence with no new development proposed. The one issue with this plan is the cartway being substandard. The landowner has discussed this with the supervisors and they have suggested for the owner to expand the cartway width to meet the requirements in order to build the new residence. The other plans are straightforward with no real concerns.

Kay Semler offered a motion to approve the plans. Dan Firth seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Public Comment

Thomas Lake acknowledged there were no public comments to add.

Project Updates

- CDBG Competitive application for Granville Township's sewer extension to Hawstone
- CDBG-CV grant update on the replacement of the laptop project with some HVAC upgrades and Park improvements
- Active Transportation Plan (Mifflin Moves) Steering Committee meeting following the Park & Rec Council meeting
- Attending the monthly municipality meetings (12 out of 16, with two additional that were canceled day-of meeting)
- Countywide Action Plan (CAP) leading to some consultant (HRG) staff hours used for easement acquisition discussions

Other Business

No additional business was presented.

Adjournment

Michele Bair offered a motion for adjournment. Robert Nulton seconded the motion. Tom Lake adjourned meeting at 5:00 pm.