

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
January 27, 2022
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – MEETING ROOM B

ATTENDANCE

Members

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

Other

Vance Varner – Superintendent, MCSD
Kevin O'Donnell – CAO, MCSD

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.

Reorganization – Election of Officers

Mark opened the floor for the reorganization/elections of officers. He ask for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Neil Shawver nominated Tom Lake for Chair, Dan Dunmire seconded the nomination and all voted aye. Neil Shawver nominated Cyle Vogt for Vice Chair, it was seconded by Dan Dunmire and all voted aye. Neil Shawver nominated Kent Spicher for Secretary, Kay Semler seconded the nomination and all voted aye. Mark then turned the meeting back over to Chairman Lake.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Thomas Lake requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. A motion was made by Michele Bair to accept the minutes. Neil Shawver seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Mifflin County School District Presentation

Superintendent Vance Varner began the presentation by offering some focus points:

- Increase community engagement and visibility as the superintendent.
- Build trust of the school system within the community
- Increase all levels of communication (including social media accounts)
- Ensure all district, financial, capital and human resources are utilized to their maximum efficiency and aligned with the mission and vision of student growth, achievement, career and college readiness and success
- Work with all stakeholders and community to foster teamwork
- Mr. Varner has committed to be the #1 advocate of MCSD, lead the district in the pursuit of excellence, and daily display a fully committed effort from himself

Mr. Varner then turned the presentation over to Chief Academic Officer (CAO) Dr. Kevin O'Donnell. Dr. O'Donnell introduced himself and explained some of the details of the status of the students. He also listed a few big initiatives the district is focusing on using the stimulus money they received. One would be mental health services for students which has become a great concern in recent months. Another initiative is early years career inventory to assist students in focusing on what curriculum best fits their goals for the future. Some of the bigger projects they are undertaking are the Academy expansion, the solar array system, getting more schools online producing their own electricity, and start fund-raising for upgrades to the athletic fields.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

Five (5) plans were submitted to the committee for review. All five plans are under municipal ordinance. There are Three (3) Minor Subdivisions, One (1) Minor Subdivision/ Lot Line Adjustment, One (1) Land Development. The plans are for K&C Realty Development LLC (Armagh Township), Samuel & Barbara Yoder (Brown Township), Dean & Lois Ann Breon (Oliver Township), Jacob & Mary Peachey (Union Township), PA DCNR- Rothrock State Forest (Brown Township).

Municipal Subdivision Plan

Mark stated there were no real concerns with any of the plans. He discussed the DCNR Rothrock State Forest plan explaining the intentions are to subdivide track A and make a land swap. Mark explained the details of the plan and why it appears to be different than what the GIS map displays. The Rothrock property does not have a tax map number or deed reference. The property resides in both Brown Township and Armagh Township. This property will not be developed in any way. Dan Dunmire offered a motion to approve the plan letters. Rob Nulton seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Public Comment

Thomas Lake acknowledged there were no public comments to add.

Project Updates

Mark explained he would be attempting to attend as many of the municipal meetings as he can within the next two months, barring meeting overlap conflicts. His intentions at the meetings are to open up lines of communication between the planning department and the municipalities to discover what the needs are and make quality of life better for Mifflin County. Additionally, he wants to impress upon them the importance of the Park and Recreation Council for the county. There is a difficulty at the Rec Council meetings to have a quorum due to the fact that a majority of the municipalities do not have members assigned to the council. He will also be presenting the need for active members on the council and the forward progress of the Active Transportation project. Cyle Vogt is the chairman of the Park and Rec Council. Mark is anticipating having a draft planned by September. Mark encouraged planning members to join in on any of the Park and Rec meetings going forward. The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2022. Mark emphasized there are lots of dollars available and the state is paying for these projects as long as certain standards are met. Dan Firth offered the idea that this may be a good opportunity for an Eagle Scout project.

Mark mentioned that Chastity is putting the final touches on the competitive grant for the completion of the Hawstone sewer expansion project.

Mark stated he submitted a grant application to PEMA for the update to the Hazard Mitigation program. He included in the application a flooded roadway study and additional educational outreach projects.

Other Business

No additional business was presented.

Adjournment

Dan Dunmire offered a motion for adjournment. Dan Firth seconded the motion. Tom Lake adjourned meeting at 4:58 pm.