

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 13, 2022

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM, in the Whitemarsh Township Building, 616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA.

Supervisors Present: Laura Boyle Nester, Chair; Fran McCusker, Vice-Chair; Vincent Manuele; Jacy Toll (Virtually) and Patrice Turenne (Virtually)

Also Present: Richard L. Mellor, Jr., Township Manager; Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor; Krista Heinrich, P.E. Township Engineer and Charles L. Guttenplan, AICP

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McCusker announced:

Snow is forecasted for this weekend. We remind all residents to park on the even addressed side of their street, where marked. This will ensure emergency vehicle access to you and your neighborhood during the snowstorm.

Sign Ups for the Winter Hayride are taking place now. The hayrides will take place on Tuesday January 18th, and Thursday January 20th. You can register online at the Parks and Rec Page or by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 610-825-3535.

Township Offices will be closed on Monday, January 17 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The MLK Day Clothing Drive is accepting donations now through January 20th at Cedar Grove Barn, 100 Cedar Grove Road. Help us beat last year's record of 14,000 Pounds!

Lt. Brian Mack Promotion

Chief Ward spoke about the promotion of Sergeant Brian Mack to lieutenant. He stated Lieutenant Mack has served in the Police Department for 22 years. He has been assigned as the Administrative Division Commander and will oversee the Detective Division, the Traffic Safety Unit and Communications Division. He replaces Lieutenant Greg Keenan who retired late last year.

The Chief said Lt. Mack is a native of Whitemarsh who attended St. Philip Neri School and LaSalle College High School, Lt. Mack has served as the department's lead certified instructor for self-defense and tasers. He was promoted to corporal in 2007 and sergeant in 2009. Lt. Mack served as a patrol supervisor for seven years and the Community Relations sergeant for the past five years. Lt. Mack is a graduate of Villanova University, Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Trilogy Program.

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The Chief congratulated Lt. Mack on his promotion and wished him well. He introduced Lt. Mack's wife, children and his mother.

Supervisor McCusker said Lt. Mack is a great face of the leadership team. He has done so much for the community. He also thanked Lt. Mack's wife and family for sharing him with the township.

MOTIONS

1. Board/Commission Appointment

Chair Nester introduced Stephen Malloy and stated he attended the Open Space Committee meeting and the Board of the Open Space Committee are in favor of the appointment. Mr. Malloy thanked the Board for the opportunity stating he is passionate about the opportunity to serve.

On a motion by Supervisors Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of the Stephen Malloy to the Open Space Committee with a term ending December 31, 2024

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 9, 2021 and January 3, 2022

On a motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors approved the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BOARD PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. SLD #11-21; Creeks Edge Project, LLC/548 S. Bethlehem Pike, Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan/Minor Subdivision and Land Development/Lot Consolidation

Mr. Guttenplan explained SLD #11-21, is an application of Creeks Edge Project, LLC, minor subdivision and land development for a live/work unit at 548 S. Bethlehem Pike. The property is south of the Turnpike, abutting the Wissahickon Creek with significant floodplain presence. The applicant is proposing a live/work unit on the property; the 'work' portion is for an artisan woodworking studio making commissioned furniture and guitar repairs. One of the principals will be living in the dwelling portion. A home in dilapidated condition due to flooding and an old freestanding garage on the property, are proposed to be razed. The new construction is proposed much farther away from the Creek, closer to Bethlehem Pike. As part of this project, the two parcels involved will be combined into one parcel. The Zoning Hearing Board approved relief related to this application in June 2021; relief was required from the Floodplain and Riparian Corridor Conservation Overlay Districts and from certain aspects of the VC Village Commercial District (the site is in the VC-2 District). A live/work unit is a permitted use in the Village Commercial District. He stated the Planning Commission reviewed this project at its December 14, 2021 meeting. After a thorough discussion of the project, including

discussion about the waivers requested, how certain floodplain issues are being addressed, and some landscaping concerns, the Planning Commission unanimously passed two motions. The first was to recommend approval of the twelve waivers requested. The second was to recommend approval of the preliminary/final plan subject to compliance with review letters and that the applicant consult with the Township Arborist with respect to some landscape comments included in the County Planning Commission review letter.

Kevin Pellegrino of Land End Design explained the project; the existing house and garage will be removed and a raised building with the 1st floor as a business and the 2nd floor as the living floor.

Mr. Kilkenny asked Mr. Guttenplan and Ms. Heinrich if they had any issues with the twelve waivers. Mr. Guttenplan stated the Planning Commission gave their approval and Ms. Heinrich stated she had no issues. Supervisor Manuele asked if the Planning Commission apply any condition and Mr. Guttenplan said they are to comply with the review letter.

RESOLUTIONS

1. SLD #11-21; Creeks Edge Project, LLC/548 S. Bethlehem Pike, Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan/Minor Subdivision and Land Development/Lot Consolidation

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors adopted **Resolution #2202-05** granting Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan approval for SLD #11-21; Creeks Edge Project, LLC/548 S. Bethlehem Pike, Minor Subdivision and Land Development/Lot Consolidation for a new 3,160 sq. ft. Live/Work Building.

CONSIDER ACTION ITEMS

Ordinances

NONE

Resolutions (continued)

2. Sewer Planning Module - SLD #05-14; 901 Washington Partners, LP/901 Washington Street

Mr. Mellor explained is the sanitary sewer for 901 Washington Street. He explained approval of the module is a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirement and it has been approved by the Whitemarsh Township Authority.

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors adopted **Resolution #2202-06** authorizing submission of a Sewer Planning Module for SLD #05-14; 901 Washington Partners, LP/901 Washington Street.

3. Restatement of Qualified Retirement Plan - Non-union Retirement Plan – Nationwide

Mr. Mellor explained Whitemarsh Township's non-uniformed employee retirement plan has been with Nationwide since 2020. Nationwide is requiring the annual re-approval of the summary plan

description for the Township's 401(a) plan. It outlines the plan requirements and that as the Township Manager, act as the administrator for the plan on behalf of the Township.

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors adopted **Resolution #2202-07** authorizing the Restatement of Qualified Retirement Plan for the non-uniformed employees Retirement Plan with Nationwide.

MOTIONS (continued)

2.. Emergency Services Funding Request from Fire Budget - Purchase of Radio's Operating on the Township Radio System

Mr. Mellor explained the Emergency Services Board at their December 2021 meeting recommended that the Board of Supervisors disburse the 2020 Fire Fund Balance of \$25,705.39 to purchase radios operating on the township radio system. Spring Mill Fire Company, Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company, and Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association are purchasing mobile and portable radios for a total of \$37,010.84 with the rest of the funding coming from the Fireman's Relief Association of Whitemarsh. The funds are requested to be disbursed to the Fireman's Relief Association of Whitemarsh which is handling the radio purchase.

On a motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of radios from the fire budget fund balance in the amount of \$25,705.39 to allow the Emergency Services additional radios that operate on the Township system.

3. Escrow Release #8 - Whitemarsh Knolls, LLC/Germantown Pike

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors authorizes escrow release #8 for Whitemarsh Knolls, LLC/Germantown Pike in the amount of \$181,641.84.

4. December 2021 Expenditures and Payroll and Pension Plan Paid Costs

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote (5-0) the Board of Supervisors approved expenditures totaling \$4,580,260.72; and payroll totaling \$727,814.12 and pension paid costs totaling \$12,358.14 for December 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Nester announced the Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session on prior to the meeting to discuss personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Manuele the meeting for January 13, 2022 was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Mellor, Jr.
Township Manager