

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

MAY 11, 2023

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM, in the Whitemarsh Township Building, 616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Toll announced:

Saturday, April 22, 2023 was another successful Whitemarsh Township Day! Thanks goes out to Tom Blomstrom and his team in the Parks and Recreation Department along with all the volunteers for putting on such a wonderful event.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 16, 2023. You can find your polling location on the Whitemarsh Township website under "Voting Information".

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the "Trash Mob" will be beautifying the area between the AIM Academy and Hagy's Mill Road along Manor Road from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Volunteers can park in the River Park 1 Lot closest to Manor Road.

The First "Movie in the Park" for 2023 begins on Friday, May 19, 2023 at Leeland Park. The feature is "Lightyear" the Disney science fiction action adventure of Buzz Lightyear!

The next Tree Planting event will be on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon at Valley Green Park. Volunteers are needed to help that day.

The County will host their Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Temple Ambler Campus from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Preregistration is required with the County.

The William Jeanes Memorial Library and Nicholas and Athena Karabots Center for Learning will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Highlands Mansion and Gardens, 7000 Sheaff Lane in Fort Washington. Tickets on sale at the Library or on their website.

The Township Offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 in observance of all the men and women who lost their lives while serving this country.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Mother's Day this Sunday, May 14, 2023!

Commendation for the Girl Scout Gold Award

Chair McCusker announced the Township received notice from Susan Groff, Girl Experience Specialist of the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, that a resident of Whitemarsh Township, Olivia M. Bell, will be receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award on May 21, 2023. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. In order to achieve this honor, Ms. Bell, a student at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, presented her proposal and addressed the students and teachers at the Colonial School District on the lack of exposure to African History in their classrooms. Ms. Bell's ultimate goal is to educate society by promoting the influences of African History on the western culture and human history. Earning the Gold Award commemorates Ms. Bell's 12 years of Girl Scouting and the prestigious achievement of developing and carrying out lasting solutions to issues in her community and beyond. Ms. Bell's aspires to attend law or medical school after achieving her undergraduate degree. Congratulations to Olivia M. Bell for achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award!

Police Department Accreditation Award

Retired Chief James Adams, Upper Allen Township, PCPA Accreditation Program Coordinator presented two certificates and recognition to the Whitemarsh Township Police Department. He explained the history of Police Department Accreditations. He stated Whitemarsh Police was one of the first agencies in the Commonwealth to enroll in the Accreditation program. He explained he was here to present the Re-Accreditation Certificate that was earned this year. He explained what Accreditation means to the Department. He further explained the Department had their fifth clean assessment which means over 15 years, every three years being re-assessed, they have had five clean reassessments grants them Premier Status. He further explained there are approximately 1,100 Police Departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with 150 currently accredited and 26 Departments with Premier Status.

Chief Christopher Ward thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support and the Township Manager and the other Staff Members but he wanted to give special credit to Sgt. Amanda Johnson who is the accreditation manager and has been for the last two accreditations in addition to her duties as a Patrol Sergeant.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 13, 2023

On a motion by Supervisor Nester, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors adopted the meeting minutes from April 13, 2023.

BOARD PUBLIC DISCUSSION

1. SLD #02-23 Bachmann/6114 and 6202 Sheaff Lane; Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision

Mr. Guttenplan explained SLD #02-23, Minor Preliminary /Final Subdivision Application of Lance and Emily Bachmann is for their properties at 6114 and 6202 Sheaff Lane in Fort Washington. The lots are adjacent to each other and are approximately 11 acres and 5.2 acres, respectively. The applicants are proposing to eliminate the boundary line between the two lots and create one lot of approximately 16.2 acres. There is a home and related improvement on 6202 Sheaff Lane. There are no principal buildings on 6114 Sheaff Lane; this lot contains a large pond and significant environmentally sensitive areas. The Planning Commission reviewed this application at their April 11, 2023 meeting and noted no issues raised by this subdivision. The Commission members present passed two motions unanimously, one to recommend approval of the waivers requested, and

one to recommend preliminary/ final approval of the minor subdivision plan. There was a discussion about the reason for the subdivision.

CONSIDER ACTION ITEMS

Ordinances

None

Resolutions

1. SLD #02-23 Bachmann/6114 and 6202 Sheaff Lane; Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Nester (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors adopted **Resolution #2023-15** granting conditional preliminary/final for minor subdivision approval for SLD #02-23 Bachmann/6114 and 6202 Sheaf Lane for a lot consolidation.

MOTIONS

1. PECO Trail License Agreement - Miracle Nature Trail

Mr. Mellor explained the Township has been exploring the possibility of creating a new trail within Whitemarsh Township. Aptly named the "Miracle-Nature Trail" (MNT), the project's concept is to create a linear, ADA accessible, trail that incorporates inclusive elements, natural amenities, and other potential community enhancements. The proposed trail would also serve the community as a vital link to the Schuylkill River Trail, the Cross County Trail, and surrounding township and county parks. The proposed location for the trail includes the 1-mile PECO utility corridor extending through Whitemarsh Township, spanning from the township boundary at Butler Avenue to Hector Street, as well as the bicyclist/pedestrian network between where the utility corridor ends at Hector Street, and the SEPTA Spring Mill Regional Rail Station trailhead of the Schuylkill River Trail. In 2020, Whitemarsh Township received \$80,000 of grant-awarded funding; \$40,000 from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) C2P2 Grant Program, matched by another \$40,000 through Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC) Phase VII of the Regional Trails Program. The Township utilized the grant funding to conduct a feasibility study for the trail concept. The Miracle-Nature Trail Project Team gave their presentation of the Miracle-Nature Trail Final Feasibility Study to the Board of Supervisors on 3-10-22. The Board of Supervisors listened to the presentation, provided feedback, heard public comment, and unanimously passed a resolution officially adopting the document. This next step as noted in the document, was to work with PECO to secure a "Trail License Agreement" for the Miracle-Nature Trail within the corridor. The agreement states that the Township will need to make an annual payment of \$250.00 to PECO for this License Agreement. In addition, the Township would need to adhere to the other requirements as outlined in the agreement (maintenance) once trail construction was completed. Supervisor Nester said she was excited to see it moving forward and thanked Staff, the Solicitors Office and especially Tom Blomstrom, Director of Parks and Recreation.

On a motion by Supervisor Toll, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors authorize the PECO trail license agreement with Whitemarsh Township for the Miracle Nature Trail project.

2. Authorizing Solicitor's Appearance - Represent Zoning Officer in Appeal of Case #2023-10: Super-Pups, LLC/723 E. Elm Street

Mr. Guttenplan explained history of the zoning of the property and the appeal of this zoning violation and the reason for the solicitor's attendance.

On a motion by Supervisor Toll, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors authorized the Township Solicitor to represent the Zoning Officer in the appeal of Zoning Case #2023-10; Super Pups, LLC/723 East Elm Street.

3. Escrow Release #4 - River Place/901 Washington Street

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Nester (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors authorize the escrow release #4 for River Place/901 Washington Street in the amount of \$110,701.99.

4. April 2023 Expenditures and Payroll and Pension Plan Paid Costs

On a motion by Supervisor Toll, seconded by Supervisor Nester (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors approved expenditures totaling \$1,066,027.72; and payroll totaling \$697,608.52; and pension paid costs totaling \$4,341.07 for April 2023.

REVISED AGENDA

5. Certificate of Appropriateness - 15 East Germantown Pike – Renovations and Additions

Mr. Guttenplan explained the Certificate of Appropriateness is for renovations to, and an addition to the building at 15 E. Germantown Pike. He stated the improvements to this building are part of a land development for Ashford Consulting, LLC/ Ashford Wealth Advisors, LLC. The land development involves improvements to this building as well as improvements and expansion to the parking at 5 E. Germantown Pike to serve both addresses (both are under the same ownership). The current plan, submitted recently with a building permit application, is the same as the last plan HARB reviewed and approved at its June 8, 2022 meeting. At the meeting today, the project architect reviewed the key features of this design and answered some questions about a few building details. Following the discussion, a motion was made and passed to recommend the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Nester (Vote 5-0) the Board of Supervisors approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations and addition at 15 East Germantown Pike.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair McCusker announced the Board of Supervisors held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Supervisor Nester, seconded by Supervisor Manuele the meeting for May 11, 2023 was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Mellor, Jr.
Township Manager