

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Virtual meeting held on September 2, 2020

FLAG SALUTE:

The Franklin Township (Warren County) Land Use Board met for a regular meeting (virtual) on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. Chairman H. Meltzer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and declared all aspects of the Open Public Meeting had been met by posting notice of this meeting on the bulletin board in the Township Municipal building and notifying the Municipal Clerk. Advertisement of notice was posted in the Express Times of Easton, Pa. and the Star Gazette and the Township Website.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mayor DeAngelis, Mr. Onembo, Mr. Meltzer, Mr. Van Saders, Mr. Santini, Mr. Butler, Mr. Corde, Mr. Banes, Mr. Handel

Members Absent: Mr. Hamler, Mr. Ferri

Also Present: Attorney R. Schneider, Engineer M. Finelli, Barbara Davis of the Land Conservancy.

MINUTES: Minutes from the July 8, 2020 virtual meeting.

Eligible to Vote: Meltzer, Van Saders, DeAngelis, Onembo, Butler, Santini, Handel, Ferri, Corde

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Meltzer, seconded by Mr. Van Saders,

Vote: Meltzer, Van Saders, DeAngelis, Onembo, Butler, Santini, Handel,

Corde – Ayes, 0 – Nay, 0 – Abstain, all ayes motion carried.

COMPLETENESS ITEMS:

1. 2020-02 – Common Sense for Animals/Dr. Blease – Completeness review for a Site Plan application located at Block 7, Lots 14/14.01/1.02. Located at 2430 State Route 57 of the Franklin Township Tax Map. The applicant was represented by Theodore Bayer of Bayer Risse Engineering Inc. Mr. Bayer addressed waivers for complete purposes and addressed how the applicant must proceed with the Highlands Council. Mr. Bayer and Engineer M. Finelli reviewed his report dated August 31, 2020. A motion to deem the application incomplete was made by Mr. Meltzer, seconded by Mr. Onembo, Vote: Meltzer, Onembo, Van Saders, Santini, Butler, Corde, Banes, Handel – Ayes, 0 – Nay, DeAngelis – Abstained, motion to approve carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. OSRP- Presented by Barbara Haskins Davis of the Land Conservancy. Ms. Davis gave a presentation for the Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan update.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Banes stated on page 37 figure 17 should read figure 15.

Ms. Davis will make the correction.

Mayor DeAngelis stated we have a good basis of where we are a good baseline but we must think about passive recreation. The Highlands gives us a larger inventory with the preserved farmland.

Mr. Butler asked if it was a detriment for an applicant when they apply for Farmland Preservation to go through the County or State. Ms. Davis explained its more common for them to go through the County or State there is no difference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tracy Heisler asked if there would be benefits of farmland as a ratable, no infrastructure, Ms. Davis said yes you are right.

Attorney R. Schneider what are you targeting for the Land Use Board. Ms. Davis recommended the plan to be adopted before its too out of date at your October or November meeting. Attorney Schneider stated the November meeting would be better we would need time for the advertising requirements.

Mr. Meltzer suggested the comments being sent to you should also be sent to our Planner J. Kyle for review as well as the board members.

Mr. Banes asked if it is time to enroll with the Green Acres program.

Mayor DeAngelis stated the committee consensus was to re-new the Green Acres program moving forward.

Ms. Davis explained that Green Acres funds were re-allocated due to in activity in the Township and the Township can easily reapply.

Mr. Onembo stated you have on p37 reference to the burned out Franklin House as a potential historic site would there be funding available for the purchase.

Mr. Meltzer asked if the Historic Sites were mapped Ms. Davis replied no but Historical Preservation funds come from Mun. Trust fund as well as at the County level.

A resident named Brian asked if there would be a restoration of a Lime Kiln on Beidleman Road as it was listed as a historical site on p37. Ms. Davis replied she would have to check into it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No further comment was made. Attorney R. Schneider stated the Planner would review report as well as the comments.

BILLS: A motion to approve vouchers submitted for payment was made by Mr. Meltzer, seconded by Mr. Van Saders, all ayes motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 p.m.
With no further business before the board and no further public comment offered the meeting was adjourned. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Corde, seconded by Mr. Meltzer, all in favor motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Housman, Secretary