

**Approved**

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. CENTERFIELD SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The August 2, 2021, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 (formerly known as Centerfield School), Martins Creek, PA, 18063. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Zator, J. Coyle, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni.

There were 4 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION- None.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 12, 2021.** There was a typo on page 2 - #3 under New Business - notice should be **noticed**. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF FLOOR**

**1.Presentation on Little Martins Preserve - Sherry Acevedo.** Sherry did a slideshow presentation at 7:05 p.m. to the Board via zoom and spoke about the park system. Little Martins Preserve was acquired in 2021 – 91 acres was in LMBT; 4 acres in Washington Twp. There are 20 parks preserved in Northampton County. She spoke about the Livable Landscape Open Space plan for Northampton County that was adopted in 2016. Thru grant programs they have preserved over 30 acres. Sherry spoke about Park Naturalization Maintenance Goals and Minsi Corridor & Stewardship plan. The survey results show Minsi Lake Corridor is the #1 most visited corridor with lots of wetland & marsh habitat. Little Martins Creek preserve is AG land within the Martins Jacoby Watershed. It's a high-quality fishery with a lot of significant features. Sherry showed slides of the property, there are a lot of steep slopes, streams & buffers. In 2021 – Livable Landscape Grant program will become available and March 2022 another grant round. The presentation was concluded at 7:38 p.m.

**2.Garden Club – Elvira explained they would like** to do project at Centerfield (arbor & fencing). The arbor would be 5 feet wide composite and two wooden flower boxes and placed at the entrance of the playground. They don't have much money and would like to do fundraising or possibly some help with completing a grant. Cost would be around \$2,500 for the arbor and \$500 for the fence. Elvira also talked about replacing the sliding board. M. DeBerardinis mentioned he would donate the plants. They discussed applying for a grant depending on timeline, or if they would like to fund raise. They could put notice on the Martins Creek Facebook page and possibly do a "go fund me" page. J. Smethers indicated about a year ago the Playground Inspector reporting the slide is a safety hazard. The Board was ok with the Garden Club moving forward with their fundraising.

3. Jeff Mathews – Geraldine Ct. He asked about the status of the Glidepath matter. J. Zator responded it has been appealed to the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas, it will take months for a hearing. J. Matthews mentioned Geraldine Ct. was paved this year, the drain in the middle of the cul-de-sac has drain issues. M. DeBerardinis will check it out on a rainy day.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

## NEW BUSINESS

**1.Resolution #2021-11 - Appointing Anthony DiSante of Barry Isett as Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer and Shannon Calluori as Zoning Officer.** J. Smethers explained we need to pass a new Resolution appointing Anthony since we did not do that when John changed positions with Isett. Also, Amanda is no longer doing our code enforcement; and we need to appoint Shannon so she can handle the Kaplin hearing. She is no longer with Isett and the previous resolution states she is an employee of Isett. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to adopt Resolution #2021-11 appointing Anthony DiSante of Barry Isett as Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer and Shannon Calluori as Zoning Officer. Vote: 5-0.

**2.Protective Covenant Ordinance** – J. Smethers indicated Andrew from Zator’s office suggested adopting a protective covenant ordinance to protect land acquired for the parks from being developed in the future. We have no protection for the 2 ½ acres we are in process of preserving. He anticipates it would cost about \$1,200 to draft and advertise the ordinance. J. Mauser suggested we pay to have covenant for 2 ½ acres and any future Farmland and Open Space to protect the Township, so no future Board can change. We might be able to use the EIT money to cover the legal costs. J. Zator noted the \$1,200 was the minimum costs. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to go forward with Zator Law to develop verbiage to help us preserve our properties we’re acquiring now and future properties. The Board discussed the different properties the Township owns and if they should be included as well. **MOTION** amended by J. Mauser, second amended by S. Newman to have Zator law prepare a general template for acquisition of the 2 ½ acres for adoption of a protective covenant ordinance, and use general template for all other properties and if possible, use EIT money (J. Smethers check the EIT ordinance). Also, coordinate with the Open Space Committee to do their evaluation / checklist. Vote: 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS** – Road Paving Overruns on Fairview, School and Hutchison. J. Smethers indicated the overage was \$33,000. M. DeBerardinis indicated due to the weather, we were late measuring roads and didn’t bid out until April. He recommended an escalator clause be added in all future bid contracts. J. Smethers indicated additional bills came in today in the amount of \$1,725.88. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$165,069.48. Vote: 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

## REPORTS

**a.Solicitor’s Report** – Written report submitted. J. Zator reported he worked with J. Smethers on the violation notice sent out to Gravel Hill Enterprises. J. Coyle asked if he can be given a copy also. There was discussion whether or not they are operational yet. S. Newman indicated there was an earth moving machine up there, they cleared a large area and doesn’t know where they are taking that fill. J. Smethers mentioned the Conservation District was on site and there are concerns with Erosion and Sedimentation that they must comply with. S. Newman looked into the technology camera. The camera counts vehicles, speed, time & direction. They are not too expensive and can be mounted to the pole. They will have to pay the tipping fee, once the Waste Management permit is issued.

**b. Engineer's Report** – J. Coyle reported Upper Mud Run Rd. is 75% complete and should be done in a week or so. He has spoken to Chris Cufrow, Executive at Penn DOT regarding Front Street to get more information to revise the traffic study. He has also reached out to Tracy Oscavich from LVPC and Senator Scavello.

Justin indicated he is reviewing the H & K Land Development plan for the \$40,000 building expansion. A traffic study will need to be completed.

### **Board Members Reports**

**S. Disidore** – Susan asked about updates for the oil leak from Bangor into the Martins Creek. J. Mauser responded there are clean up efforts in effect since April. The PA Fish & Boat Commission is involved, and he is comfortable with their clean-up efforts which include clean up traps in the culvert, a chemical print and core boring testing of tanks.

**J. Mauser** – John reported the Sojourn event is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Welcome Center. They are expected 75 paddlers and will be serving lunch. Lamont McClure will be attending and will be presented an acknowledgement. They will also be serving a dinner at the Driftstone for the paddlers. Samantha, Melissa and Sandra will be volunteering to help serve.

**S. Newman** – Sandra reported there was an article in the Express Times that Josh Gottheimer of NJ District 5 mentioned they're involved with the House Bill to defund the Rt. 80 Rockwall Project. Sandra mentioned UMBT received a matching grant of \$250,000 for an Emergency Shelter, we might want to consider partnering with them. J. Smethers will look into that.

**S. Burns** – Samantha indicated she attended the PSATS forum. Some items of discussion were ADA money; final rules are not out yet. Marvin from LTAP attended and discussed safe walking on safe roads.

**Road Department Report – No report.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator  
Lower Mt. Bethel Township