

APPROVED

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – APRIL 4, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: The April 4, 2022, 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, S. Burns, J. Mauser, P. North, J. Coyle, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. J. Coyle was absent. There were four attendees present in the audience. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2022. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1.Presentation Tara Mezzanotte of the I-80 Delaware Water Gap Coalition. Tara gave the Board an update. Warren, Hunterdon, Northampton, Bucks and Monroe County are all sending and passing over 45 letters and resolutions opposing the I-80 DWG & Route 29 Devils Tea Table Projects. They are requesting Environmental Impact Statements and telling NJDOT to fix the S-curve. Warren County went to the Northampton County Council meeting held on February 17, 2022 in which they passed a Resolution that Northampton County Council supports regional efforts requesting NJDOT immediately initiate a problem statement to study the safety, mobility and congestion issues on I-80 from Exit 4 – Portland Columbia Bridge and the DWG Bridge; initiate a regional traffic study; and delay the I-80 Rockfall Project pending the outcome of the studies. Northampton County Council encourages all municipalities, State and Federally elected representatives, organization, and transportation agencies who serve Northampton County to consider similar action supporting regional efforts. Tara mentioned a scenic byway in Bucks County, a similar pattern to this project; there is an open investigation they are talking seriously about. Tara indicated there will be a Regional Traffic Study due to all the warehouses going in. She also mentioned tribes being initially there and an archeological investigation is going to be done. The Board thanked her for all her efforts and everything she has done.

2.Garden Club. J. Pilyar & E. Woodruff. Elvira indicated they finished the Children’s Free Little Library at Centerfield. J. Pilyar asked if he could refinish the benches and asked if the Road Dept. can move them. The Board had no objection. The Road Dept. is going to take down the sliding boards next week.

3.Rich Howell. Rich mentioned the culvert replacement starting next week and concerns about Berry Hollow Rd. He asked about the weight limit signs being put back. Fred will look into that. M. DeBerardinis suggested we take videos of the roads before the work starts. Rich asked about dirt on the roads from the quarry. J. Smethers indicated she contacted New Enterprise and they are waiting for a non-rainy day to sweep the roads.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Woolverton ASA - 8114 Franklin Hill Rd. G9-14-3-0117 – Public Hearing for Resolution 2022-16. P. North opened the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m. Paul explained the public notice was advertised in the Express Times on 3/25/22 and the required posting of the public hearing was completed on 3/23/22 and everything’s in order for the Board to approve.

MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve Resolution 2022-16 approving the addition of 9.1 acres to the Lower Mount Bethel Township ASA. Vote: 5-0.

- 1. Terpstra ASA** – 9501 Richmond Rd. F11-8-15-0117. P. North explained this is a proposal adding a parcel approximately 108.3 acres to the Lower Mount Bethel Township ASA. P. North mentioned the 15 days period has expired for Public Comment from date of publication and we have received no comments. The public notice of the proposal was published in the Express Times on March 1, 2022 and the required posting of the public notice was completed on 3/23/22.

MOTION by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to refer the Terpstra ASA to the LMBT PC, LVPC, Twp. Engineer, EAC and ASA Committee for a recommendation. Vote: 5-0.

- 2. Zoning Ordinance Update.** J. Snook submitted his memo dated 4/1/22 revising certain portions recommended by the LVPC, P. North and BOS at their meeting held on 3/21/22. P. North indicated since conditional use language has been changed, the revisions need to go back to the LVPC and they have 45 days to review. He also recommended it go back to the Twp. PC. J. Snook will incorporate these changes in the Zoning Ordinance. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore authorizing J. Snook to revise the Zoning Ordinance as specified in his memo dated 4/1/22 reflecting the BOS changes made at their 3/21/22 meeting. Once that's complete, it will be sent back to the Twp. PC and LVPC. Vote: 5-0.

- 3. Memory Bench.** J. Mauser presented slides of the bench placed at the Welcome Center and other benches (ADA accessible) he would like installed with plaques to be engraved. John would like to ask for Park Bench Sponsorships of \$500. The bench Desired Location would be at: The Jerry Brunetti Environmental Welcome Center & Recreation Ball Fields at Riverton, Brian Kiefer Ball Field, John M. Mauser Nature Education Trail System (formerly known as PPL or Talen Tekening Trails), Centerfield School Complex – Community Building and Park, The Meadows at Martins Creek. Plaques 9”h by 3”v with engraving to fit within a 8”h by 2”v plate with 3 to 5 lines can be ordered to recognize donors.. We will put this information in the newsletter.

- 4. Discussion MC OPCO, LLC v. NC Revenue Appeals Board, et. al. (C-48-CV-2021-06872)** P. North indicated the Bangor School District has authorized our Solicitor to enter his appearance in this tax assessment appeal. R. Marinelli has provided the assessed value for MC OPCO. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to authorize our Solicitor to file a response to the MC OPCO appeal to the NC Revenue Appeals Board. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Approval to Advertise Road Paving Project for Klausz Road.** Fred explained where it comes out of the woods, they will put down 1 ½ inches of overlay over the top. S. Newman asked about the Escalator Clause. Michael explained what that means and Resolution 2022-17 allows an escalator clause for bituminous material to be included as part of the proposal. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to advertise the Road Paving Project for Klausz road. Vote: 5-0.
- 2. Resolution 2022-17 Road Paving Bid Escalator Clause.** S. Newman asked what the Escalator Clause means. Michael explained and indicated Resolution 2022-17 allows an escalator clause for bituminous material to be included as part of the proposal. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to adopt Resolution 2022-17 Road Paving Bid Escalator Clause. Vote: 5-0.

3. **Resolution 2022-15 Authorize Application to Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant** – J. Smethers indicated this grant is for the tennis/pickleball courts and CF playground improvements. The grant is due on 4/15/22; she already submitted the state LSA grant; that was just for pickleball and the tennis courts.

Jennifer is also looking at trails at the Meadow and Welcome Center & playground to make them ADA accessible. At the CF playground, the insurance company mentioned the macadam is too close to the swings; she would also like get some inclusive swings at all the parks and replace bleachers in the gym through Co-Star. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2022-15 authorizing J. Smethers to apply for the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant and other grants that open up. Vote: 5-0.

4. **Approval to Advertise the Office Improvements Project for Bids** – This is for the bathroom ADA repairs and Covid Improvements. J. Smethers indicated J. Coyle has the plans and explained the building improvements that are going to be done at the office; this will include windows that will open which is covid related. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve advertising the Office Improvements Project out to bid. Vote: 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS. MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to approve the bill list in the amount of \$27,219.03. Vote: 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

REPORTS

Township Solicitor Report. P. North reported in addition to the written report submitted, Gravel Hill Enterprises has until December 2022 (6 months) to act on the permit. Paul indicated he has not heard from M. Jackson regarding the agreement for the pavilion. P. North asked about getting the final closing documents (HVD 1 Settlement and Title Search) from the Brewer closing. Sandra mentioned the Brewers' attorney did not attend the closing due to illness and that the paperwork delay was expected. We will receive all documents from Maria Bentzoni as soon as they are complete and will forward them to Paul. Paul mentioned a movie "Biggest Little Farm" in the credits mentions Jerry Brunetti.

Chairman's Report – No report.

Board Members Reports

J. Mauser – No report

S. Disidore – Susan asked about reaching out to Northampton County regarding the possibility of transferring Bridge 31 to the Township.

S. Burns – No report.

S. Newman – Sandra mentioned UMBT had no advanced discussion to appoint Ed Nelson to County LVPC. This could have been discussed at the Plan Slate Belt Comp. Plan meeting. Sandra mentioned highlights of the LVPC Review Letter: RPL East Planned Industrial Park. LVPC is not in favor of the project; some comments are: The proposed industrial building exhibits **inconsistency** with *Future LV: The Regional Plan* for several reasons.

Some comments she mentioned are: the scale and intensity of the proposal would significantly alter the scenic view shed in this area, also Limited Transportation Capacity. Transportation capacity is limited in the vicinity of the project site and roads were not built to withstand high traffic volumes or heavy industrial vehicles. Transportation impacts are made worse by the lack of transportation options as an alternative to automobiles. Additionally, there are several bridges in the area that limit mobility and need to be addressed. LVPC indicated that townships are discouraged from approving land development plans that have major freight impacts without the existing infrastructure to support it.

Township Manager Report – Written report submitted.

Zoning Officer Report – Written report submitted.

Road Department Report. F. Heitzman reported they have been cleaning up after storms, working on the trails and parks. The Gaga pit at the Riverton Welcome Center was vandalized and they're cleaning it up. He also went out with Penn DOT for the Klausz Road Paving Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator
Lower Mount Bethel Township