

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

The June 15, 2020 meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom. 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. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were no audience members present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 1, 2020. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Review Draft Zoning Ordinance Update**

**1.Revised Zoning Map** –This will be updated by J. Snook once the Commercial District is agreed upon and incorporated into the Revised Zoning Map.

**2.Commercial Zoning Map (Option D)** – The Board reviewed the revised Commercial Zoning Map. J. Mauser indicated he likes the red and blue both as commercial, it’s approximately 24 acres. The red encourages a lot of development along the byway, red is hilly and blue is flat. J. Mauser indicated the Hess family owns a lot of those tracts. S. Newman mentioned across from the blue is all wooded. J. Mauser said we could encourage developers to plant tree’s and shrubs. S. Disidore suggested we set design standards and possibly pick a building design that is more appealing and belongs in a country setting. P. McInerney mentioned along the scenic byway, there are screening requirements. S. Calluori said those design standards would be in the zoning ordinance and we can make the design standards to our liking. P. McInerney noted there would also be sign and lighting standards. He will review those standards and reach out to J. Snook if he has any questions. S. Newman mentioned traffic impact on the Martins Creek Belvidere Hwy. The Board agreed to make the entire blue block commercial (approx. 13 acres) and extend into the red block past the access road (approx. 3 acres).

3.Article XV - Supplemental Regulations – P. McInerney reviewed with the Board Article XV – Supplemental Regulations and mentioned this is in addition to the Common Regulations. He mentioned the Planning Commission spent a lot of time on this Article. 1502 – Accessory Agricultural Commercial Uses. This section is also related to Section 1513 – Conversion of Agricultural Structures. Sections 1529 – Special Event Venue; 1530 – Temporary Event and 1531 – Temporary Structure or Use are related. S. Burns asked about 1502 – (D) – Noise Control, the Township never passed a noise ordinance. 1505 – Animal Shelter and 1521 – Keeping of Animals are somewhat related.

4.Article XII – Alternative & Renewable Energy – Tabled to the next Workshop meeting.

5.Article XIII – Natural Resources Conservation Tabled to the next Workshop meeting.

**B. Approval to Apply for the 2020 Grow NORCO Grant** – J. Smethers reviewed the grant with the Board. The grant is focusing on Covid-19 related expenses to assist in the reduction and spread of the disease. She was thinking of putting in for the cost of Nixle, Code Red or Swift 911 emergency public notification systems and billing software to allow residents to make online payments to help limit person to person contact (for street lights, permits, escrows, etc.). The Grant deadline is June 25<sup>th</sup>. No match is required but applications that demonstrate leveraged funds may be prioritized. I am not sure how much these items will cost and the average grant will be \$5,000 to \$10,000, with a max of \$15,000. She has meetings set up to get cost estimates. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore to allow J. Smethers to apply for the grant. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye. S. Disidore – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**C. Approval to Apply for the 2021 Hotel Tax Grant** – J. Smethers reviewed the grant with the Board. She would like to apply for funding for next year's Community Day event. The Grant deadline is July 17<sup>th</sup>. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to allow J. Smethers to apply for the grant. Roll call: S. Disidore; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS** – J. Smethers indicated she added a few more bills for a total of \$42,243.31. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve paying the bills. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye. S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – All correspondence are located in the Township Office.

## **REPORTS**

**Chairman's Report** – M. DeBerardinis will report under the Road Department report.

### **Board Members Reports**

John Mauser – He reviewed the signs for dogs / pets and rules for the Meadows. There is a problem with dogs / pets not being leashed or picked up after. These signs would be in addition to the LMBT Twp. Park rules. The signs will read All dogs / pets must be leashed, under control, and picked up after, Keep pets off athletic fields and children's playgrounds. Lower Mount Bethel Township. The Board agreed to purchase 9 – pressed board signs and asked J. Smethers to get quotes. The Meadows suggested rules to be added are: only archery hunting is permitted – Talen / LMBT permit is required, no horseback riding, no cutting trees or shrubs, dogs / pets must be leashed, clean up after dog/pet dogs / pets not allowed on athletic fields or playgrounds. The Board agreed with the modified rules to be added.

J. Mauser reviewed with the Board the estimate we received from Barker & Barker for the Meadows Parking Area (Nagy Rd.) a). Porous Complete - \$24,650.00, b). Standard Pave Complete - \$20,750.00, c). Porous Pave only - \$15,950.00, d). Standard Pave only - \$13,950.00. We might have to get an extension from LV Greenways and might be required to write a letter for a change order, depending on which estimate we go with. Public Comment by H. Klein – He mentioned a bee problem around the porch of the Welcome Center.

J. Mauser presented the Board with different gate prices for the Meadows. We need 2 gates. One is from Tractor Supply - \$199.00 each. If purchased, we would put poles from the speed signs and wheels on each end. The other gate is \$299.99 each, it's a Forester Gate and the same ones that DCNR uses. The Board agreed to go with the Forester Gates. J. Mauser indicated we received the sign permit from Washington Township. 11x17 copies of the grading plan can be dropped off at Washington Township.

**S. Newman** – She reported at the June EAC meeting they discussed forming an advisory committee for the Scenic By-way. They never established a committee when the management plan passed and the monitoring fell on the EAC. The EAC passed a motion that the Advisory Committee be formed, 5-8 members and they will be writing the Board of Supervisors a letter. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to establish the Delaware River Valley Scenic Byway Advisory Committee. J. Smethers will draw up the Resolution. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye. Motion passed 5-0. S. Newman asked about the paperwork Re: turnback information. S. Burns will provide the Board with the Penn DOT links to access the information.

S. Burns asked M. DeBerardinis to provide maintenance costs for Front Street. She also asked if M. DeBerardinis can contact J. Roback to find out how much of Front Street we would have to take back, how much money the Township would receive for taking the Road back and traffic calming. M. DeBerardinis said he will contact J. Roback and set up a site meeting. He also would need to look at winter maintenance; if we have to take the entire road back, he might have to look into contracting out the snow plowing; black hill is dangerous. There was discussion about who would enforce the ordinance, and tractor trailers traveling through Martins Creek.

S. Disidore – She recommended we send a response letter to Greenman – Pedersen, Inc. Re: Bridge #41 replacement. J. Coyle’s email can be incorporated into a letter form and also include the letter from the GPA. We should also send the letter to our State Reps. and Penn DOT. S. Newman will get some pictures together of the Rasley Hill Bridge to include as well.

**Township Manager Report** – J. Smethers reviewed with the Board COVID-19 Park Regulation signs. She also spoke to F. Heitzman about putting up construction fencing around the pavilions. We need about 500 ft.; the cost would be about \$400.00. J. Smethers mentioned we are anticipated to go green at the end of June, so didn’t know if they wanted to spend the money. The Board agreed not to purchase the fencing, but to print 6-Ledger sized signs, have them laminated and placed at the parks. J. Smethers will prepare a ytd. budget for the next meeting. She indicated the Box Culverts are in; F. Heitzman and M. DeBerardinis will arrange for delivery and scheduling of the project.

**Zoning Officer Report** -J. Smethers indicated John DeCusatis is back and Shannon will be phasing out, but will still continue on with our Zoning Ordinance updates.

**Road Department Report** – No further comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary, Lower Mount Bethel Township