

Liberty Township, Adams County
39 Topper Road, Fairfield, PA 17320
Planning Commission Monthly Meeting

Sept. 15, 2020

The Planning Commission of Liberty Township, Adams County, met on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. in the Liberty Township Municipal Building, 39 Topper Road, Fairfield, for the regular monthly meeting. The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom for physical distancing safety measures. Vince Gee, Geoff Grant, Barb Ruppert and Rich Luquette attended in person at the township offices.

Present: Judie Hogan, Chair; Vince Gee, Vice Chair; Barb Ruppert, Secretary; Rich Luquette; Geoff Grant

Not Present: Nancy Wenschhof, Alternate; Dominic Picarelli, Township Engineer

Judie called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes: There was one minor correction to the minutes from Judie Hogan. Geoff Grant motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, and Rich Luquette seconded the motion. The Aug. 18 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as corrected. Judie abstained because she was not at the last meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Township supervisors Walter Barlow and Bobby Keilholtz attended the meeting.

Chair Comments

Judie Hogan thanked Geoff Grant and Rich Luquette for working on the burn ordinance.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Burn Ordinance

Barb Ruppert noted the decision at the last Planning Commission meeting, that the PC should look for the Adams County model ordinance on burning and clean air and send that and the state ordinance to the supervisors so they can add what they would like to it, with preference given to what is in the state ordinance. She contacted Rob Thaeler at the county office in August, then again earlier today, and has heard nothing back.

Judie Hogan noted that PC members Geoff Grant and Rich Luquette put a lot of work into revising Carroll Valley's ordinance as a model, and she would like the supervisors to consider the burn ordinance the PC put forth. It covers all we want to have in our township. The latest version is a Word document labeled "Liberty Township Burning Ord Ver. 2.1 9-8-20" (provided with these meeting minutes). Geoff and Rich explained that they have worked on the document through Article V, and that the rest of the document would need to be corrected from "Carroll Valley" to "Liberty Township" if the supervisors move forward with it.

Discussion among the supervisors and PC centered around ensuring the burn ordinance reflected the needs of Liberty Township as a farming community as well as the need to plan for the future. Why can't trees over 6" in diameter be burned? What about farm clearing, like burning off old apple orchard trees every seven years? Or other diseased trees? To cover this case, the ordinance should include "under the

advisement of Adams County Conservation District.” The ordinance should also note that residents need to call County Control to notify them that they are doing a controlled burn and make sure it is allowed (not a fire ban in place). In general, the township wants to see what the county is doing regarding a burn ordinance.

Judie Hogan motioned that the Planning Commission should submit its proposed ordinance to the Liberty Township Supervisors and let them proceed as they desire. Rich Luquette seconded the motion. Four members were in favor, and one was against. The motion passed.

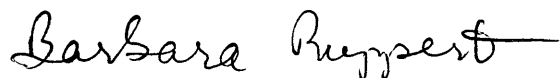
Discussion on the motion noted that a new burn ordinance would have to be advertised, and the public and Planning Commission could add input at that point. Item V (7) (C) conflicts with item V (9) and should be removed, since burning of construction material is not allowed.

Next Meeting

Geoff Grant or Vince Gee should set up the meeting livestream next time so we have more time available. Barb Ruppert will be out next month, so someone else will need to take minutes.

At 8:09 p.m., Vince Gee moved to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, and the motion passed. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Ruppert". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Barb Ruppert
Planning Commission Secretary