

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Stokes Assembly Hall
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown Township
Wednesday January 9, 2019 – 7:30PM

Present

Commissioners – Planning Commission (PC) member Kevin Flynn was not present, all others were present (6-1). Also present was Township Planning Director William Ethridge.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Pomerantz called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, Elaine Adler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda (JL/RH) 6-0

No changes made

Election of Officers – Mr. Ethridge

Nomination for Commission Chair – Richard Pomerantz **(SR/JE) 6-0**

Nomination for Commission Vice-Chair – Russ Hatton **(DP/JL) 6-0**

Nomination for Commission Secretary – William Ethridge **(DP/JE) 6-0**

Approval of Minutes

Planning Commission Meeting minutes for 11/28/2018 – **(EA/JE) 6-0**

Planning Commission Meeting minutes for 12/05/2018 – **(JE/RH) 4-0** (two members did not attend the 12/5 meeting)

Announcements

- Malvern School Preliminary/Final Development Plans to be reviewed at the 1/23/19 meeting
- PC members nominated Russ Hatton to prepare the 2018 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors
- Mr. Ethridge reminded members that he would like to present a webinar on how to implement the Comprehensive Plan. PC members asked Mr. Ethridge to expand the invitation to members of the Board of Supervisors, to hold the event in the evening, and provide food & beverage.

Public Comment – Non-agenda items

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comments

None

Reports

Board of Supervisors public meeting 1/7/18 – Jim Lees

During discussion of the report, members asked Mr. Ethridge to do the following:

- Send an email to Mr. Pingar to ask if PC members could be notified in advance when a workshop agenda consists of an hour or more of just executive session, so that the PC representative does not show up and to have to nothing to do or observe. Mr. Lees would like to have known ahead of time that he didn't have to come.
- Request that Chairman Scott Yaw and Twp Manager Rob Pingar arrange to attend a future PC meeting (prior to the joint meeting with the BOS scheduled for the Spring) to have a cordial discussion about the relationship between the PC and the BOS, opportunities where the PC and BOS can work together, and the public notification of the BOS meetings that may take place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.
- Invite members of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force to attend the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Webinar as soon as its scheduled.
- Send the Westtown School Conditional Use hearing dates to PC members.
- Ask the BOS if the PC can be a party to the Westtown School CU.
- Ask for a redlined copy of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Draft.
- Provide PC members with a list of the Ordinance Amendment Proposals that have been discussed in the past.
- Develop a new alternates list for Board of Supervisors meeting attendance to provide additional coverage.

Mr. Lees noted that one of several complaints lodged with the Board of Supervisors during the meeting dealt with the lack of detail surrounding a possible Veterans memorial. Mr. Embick made the following comment and asked that it be included in the minutes:

"My feeling is that the township should have a veterans' memorial, and the memorial should be a place which honors our veterans in a dignified way. I think the proposed memorial should be professionally designed so that the memorial can be accessible to all citizens and be an attractive place of quiet contemplation. I regret that some of our residents, including some veterans, feel that a professionally designed memorial is a waste of resources. I have family members whose loved ones did not return from war. I feel that our veterans should be honored in a place of remembrance, lest we forget their sacrifice, and the sometimes awful price of freedom. I also think we should have a proper place of honor to relocate the markers and tomb stones that were a part of the Taylor Burial Ground. Accordingly, I do not view the expense of planning and constructing a veterans' memorial as a "boondoggle," as stated by Mr. Foster. I do regret, however, that the project has progressed so slowly, and I hope that our elected officials will exercise good judgment in reviewing the design and in dedicating our valuable resources to the project. I also hope that the Board of Supervisors will allow the public to review and comment on the design of the project."

Adjournment (JL/JE) 6-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next PC meeting – January 23, 2019, 7:30 pm – Township Building

PC Representative at next Board meeting: January 22, 2019 (Tuesday) – Russ Hatton

Respectfully submitted,

William Ethridge, Planning Commission Secretary