

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
June 24, 2021
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – MEETING ROOM A AND VIA ZOOM, HYBRID MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Members

Thomas Lake, Chair
Daniel Firth
Michele Bair
Kent Spicher, Secretary
Neal Shawver
Robert Nulton

Other

Kate Long, NuVisions

Staff

Mark Colussy, Director
Candace Rager, Secretary
Chastity Fultz, CDBG Community Development Administrator
Tiffany Brought, Planning Clerk
Doug Marks, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager

Call to Order

Thomas Lake called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Record of Public Attendance

Candace Rager recorded public attendance, the meeting was held via hybrid in-person/zoom meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Thomas Lake requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. A motion was made by Dan Firth. Neil Shawver seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Temporary Adjournment to Hold CDBG Public Hearing

Thomas Lake temporarily adjourned the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting at 3:36 p.m., in order to conduct the FFY 2021 CDBG Public Meeting.

FFY 2021 CDBG Public Meeting

Thomas turned the meeting over to Chastity Fultz, CDBG Community Development Administrator, for the public hearing. There were four (4) applications submitted which included: Wayne Township (project ineligible), NuVisions, and Menno Township (Playground and Sidewalk). Kate Long gave a presentation for the NuVisions project. There were no others available to present which makes the two (2) Menno Township projects ineligible.

Thomas Lake ask for a motion to adjourn the CDBG Public hearing at 4:05 p.m. Michele Bair made a motion and Dan Firth seconded it, all voted aye. Thomas Lake reconvened the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting at 4:06 p.m. upon a motion made by Michele Bair, which was seconded by Rob Nulton. Thomas turned the meeting over to Mark Colussy.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

Five (5) plans were submitted to the committee for review all under municipal ordinance. These plans were for Gideon & Dena Hostetler (Brown Township), Derek & Emily Jane Swineford (Granville Township), Courtney Musser (Granville Township), Benjamin Snyder (Granville Township), and Jacob & Judith Peachey (Union Township). There were two (2) Minor Subdivisions, two (2) Lot Additions, and one (1) Land Development Plan. Mark mentioned that all plans were straightforward and relatively simple, all with no major concerns. The only

Municipal Plans

Mark stated all the plans were straight forward with no real concerns. Bill Wright presented all these plans and will ask for waivers from the municipalities or will make edits to the plans regarding any issues that need to be corrected. Mark highlighted the Swineford plan which proposes to create Lot 2 for a single-family residence to be served by on-lot sewage disposal and private well. The residual tract, Lot 1, is replacing the recently demolished original residence with a new single-family residence to be served by on-lot sewage disposal and private well. Mark also indicated a helpful 'tie-line' has been put in place which identifies where the boundary line sits. The Ellen Chapel right of way is substandard and will be up to the township to decide whether it will be approved. Michele Bair stated the right of way was approved by the township and the property is Clean & Green, which requires the lot to be at least two (2) acres.

Thomas Lake requested a motion be made to accept the plans as presented. Dan Firth made a motion and Robert Nulton seconded it. All voted aye.

Public Comment

Thomas Lake acknowledged there were no public comments to add.

Project Updates

Mark gave an update on several ongoing projects. He spoke with PennDOT and their consultant regarding an active transportation program involving the county. The WalkWorks project was initially rejected by the Department of Health in 2020. However, at the same time, PennDOT did approve having their consultant on retainer complete for the Train Station study. From that study the consultant identified some pedestrian/cycling improvements commencing at the train station to downtown Lewistown. PennDOT Deputy Secretary, Jennie Granger, stated she would like to see the county develop the transportation plan. The state has an open-ended contract with McMann Associates who do transportation studies on an as-needed basis. Mark will be working with Angela Watson and the consultant to see what scope can be developed to work on an active transportation plan for Mifflin County. This is significant because Mifflin County sits in the metropolitan planning organization for the SEDA-COG region and nine (9) of the eleven (11) counties have an active transportation plan, specifically called, the Susquehanna Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Mark has been asked to develop a top five (5) focus areas list that could be included in the scope of work for this particular plan and asked Commission members to offer feedback in these areas. He would like others to offer any bike/pedestrian focus related ideas to add to this list within the next week or so. Including plan related improvements will help to get these projects funded when they are presented in the future.

Mark reiterated being deep into developing the Countywide Action Plan (CAP). This plan needs to be completed by September 2021. There is a draft already developed and it appears, after re-running the CAST (Chesapeake

Assessment Scenario Tool) model, 45% of the goals have been met for this plan. Mark is attempting to have the consultant, Erin Letavic (HRG), give a presentation at next month's meeting.

Mark discussed the role of Federal Government funds dispersed at the beginning of the year under the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds include a state and local recovery fund which in turn provides significant funds for the county and municipalities infrastructure improvements. These fiscal recovery funds will specifically be allocated for lost revenue, water infrastructure improvements, sanitary sewer improvements, storm sewer, and broadband infrastructure. A requirement for the municipalities to receive funds is to complete a single application process through the DCED and there is a very limited timeframe for the application to be submitted. As of yet, Mark has only received a small amount of feedback. There is also a municipal code that is needed before applying and these funds will not be dispersed automatically. If funds are allocated, municipalities have until 2024 to commit the funds and until 2026 to spend the funds. All of these opportunities will have to be coordinated between the commissioners and municipality officials on how they want to spend the funds.

Mark stated that due to all the events of 2020, an annual report for 2019 was never published. The department is working on completing both 2019 and 2020 annual reports and will be working on this next month.

Michele Bair inquired about the Victory Park trail extension and its completion. Mark explained this phase of the plan is different in that it went around the concrete plant and into the flood way. This requires a particular permit from DEP. Due to the fact the initial trail was located in a wetland, it needed to be revamped and resubmitted. Mark anticipates this will be another six to eight months for the permit to be approved and projects the trail being completed by the summer of 2022. Dan Firth complimented Mark for his active involvement in all of the plans and improvement projects for the county.

Other Business

No other business to report

Adjournment

Thomas Lake requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michele Bair offered a motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.