

MINUTES
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
1031 VALLEY FORGE ROAD, WORCESTER, PA 19490
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 - 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sherr called the meeting to order at 7:03PM

2. ATTENDANCE

The following Planning Commission were present: Tony Sherr, Michelle Greenawalt, Bob Andorn, Lee Koch, and Jennifer Taylor.

Also in attendance were Sean Halbom, Township Manager, Amanda Lafty, Assistant Township Manager and Bill McGrane, Farmers Union Horse Company.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Andorn motioned to approve the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. WORCESTER TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE UTILIZATION AND ACQUISITION ANALYSIS

Mr. Sherr gave background on the project and his thoughts on further acquisition of open space. He stated that he would like to meet the wants and needs of the citizens of the township. He discussed outreach to residents. Mr. Halbom noted that he has reached out to different stakeholder organizations to come to the meetings and discuss their thoughts for open space.

Ms. Taylor commented about the outreach strategies and how well the survey worked for the comprehensive plan. She inquired about events that could be a good way to speak with residents. It was noted that the fire company has an upcoming event, as well as the Farmers Union Horse Company.

Mr. Andorn noted that he doesn't want to look at it just as open space, or if there are some additional uses. He also talked about site visits, and how he would like more information about the properties. Additionally, it may be helpful to know more about adjacent parcels. Mr. Halbom talked about the constraints of site visits, including advertising of meetings and daylight hours. The consensus was that Monday afternoons work well.

Mr. McGrane gave background on his organization and their longstanding past in the Township. After the pandemic, they desired to work with the Township to focus on more community day type programming. As they grow their program, they hope to expand. Mr. Sherr asked about the fees for using the Township property, which have been waived

in the past. Mr. Sheer also talked about how their used to be t-ball fields at Heyser Field, behind the horse ring.

Mr. Sherr talked about how many of the residents who responded to the comp plan survey were new residents, and he is interested in learning about what long term residents are interested in as well. Mr. McGrane talked about moving forward while still honoring the past. Mr. Halbom inquired about public trails for horses in the area, which Mr. McGrane noted that there were not any available in the Township but there are some locally. Mr. Halbom talked about potential for the Fisher Road property.

Mr. McGrane discussed the younger riders in the community. Mr. Halbom asked if there is any facilities that we need more of for youth themed events. Mr. McGrane talked about the types of horse events that can be held at Heyser Field, which are appropriate for less formal types of riding events.

Mr. Andorn asked how the horse shows work, in which Mr. McGrane provided background, as well as the types of riding styles. There was discussion about the upkeep of the horse ring and the Farmers Union Horse Company's role, as well as if it is open to other groups, like RC cars or something similar. Mr. McGrane said it was absolutely available for other types of events.

Mr. Koch asked about the Palmer site, and if it was originally a horse farm. Mr. McGrane said it was a farm. Resident Burt Hynes talked about the livestock that lived at the farm.

There was discussion about the Fisher Road farm and how it could be used to support the FUHC. Mr. Halbom discussed the grant that the Township applied for to plan the Township property at Fisher Road.

Mr. Sherr thanked Mr. McGrane for coming in.

5. **NEXT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

Mr. Halbom noted that the Township is anticipating one or more applications next month. Mr. Sherr expressed that he would like to hear from active recreational groups.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

active applications (review period expiration)

- LD 2017-02 Palmer Village, LLC (*review period waived*)
- LD 2022-01 City View (*review period waived*)