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Middle Paxton Township

MIDDLE PAXTON TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2015

The January 12, 2015 meeting of the Middle Paxton Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Township meeting room by Township Manager and Recording Secretary, Julie Seeds.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, nominations for Chairperson were requested. Ms. Liz Rodda was nominated by Mr. Don Morse, seconded by Mr. Bill Kotkiewicz. The nominations were closed and Ms. Rodda was elected by unanimous vote.

Ms. Rodda assumed the Chair and requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Jeffrey Smith was nominated as Vice-Chairperson by Mr. Ralph Stone, seconded by Mr. Don Morse. The nominations were closed and Mr. Smith was elected by unanimous vote.

The 2015 meeting dates and time were set as the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm., with the location at the Township Meeting Room, 10 Elizabeth Avenue.

The regular meeting commenced with all members present except Mr. Gary Deimler and Mr. Chip Brown. Also in attendance was Elijah Yearick, Representative from Tri County Planning

Mr. Ralph Stone moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 10, 2014, Seconded by Mr. Bill Kotkiewicz, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Rodda asked if there was any one in attendance that wanted to provide public comment. No Public comments were given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joint Comprehensive Plan – Mr. Jeffrey Smith and Ms Julie Seeds reported the Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee worked on a Community Survey that will be in the next Township/Borough Newsletter. In addition the survey will be on Survey Monkey to access the Survey on-line. In addition there is a public meeting scheduled for January 29, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Township Meeting Room. Ms. Seeds noted also noted the Community Survey is due by Friday, February 13, 2015.

Zoning Hearing Updates - Ms. Seeds reported that the Fort Hunter Parking Lot and Non-Motorized Boat Launch Project that was appealed to the Court of Common Pleas was heard in Chambers by the Judge and no further information is available at this time. Ms. Seeds also reported there are no updates at this time on the Verizon/Cellco Federal Lawsuit.

Vacancies –Ms. Seeds reported on vacancies within various Boards and Authorities. At present, there are three (3) vacant positions on the Zoning Hearing Board, Two (2) vacant positions on the Dauphin Middle Paxton Park Authority. In addition, Ms Seeds reported there is a part time Clerk position open at the Township Office. All vacant positions will be listed in the next Township Newsletter due out mid-January 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

Front Setback and Non-Conforming Structures – Per the request from the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission reviewed information provided by Elijah Yearick and Ms. Seeds. Mr. Yearick provided Front Setback Ordinances from a cross-section of Dauphin County. The research findings were the Front Setback as written in the Middle Paxton Township Zoning Ordinance was found to align with the majority of the ordinances reviewed and also consistent with Dauphin County's model Zoning Ordinance.

In addition, Mr. Yearick provided research on the Extension and Enlargement of Non-Conforming Uses in Dauphin County. The research that was provided found the language in the Middle Paxton Township Zoning regarding Non-Conforming Structures is consistent with all but one Municipality.

Ms. Seeds provided research from office staff of variance requests from 2000-2014. The research reported there were 9 variances in 14 years applied for pertaining to expansions of non-conforming structures to which 3 out of 9 were denied.

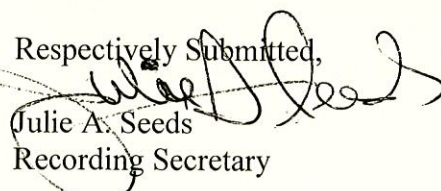
After review of all the research provided, the Planning Commission recommended the Middle Paxton Zoning Ordinance stand as it is written and do not recommend any amendments at this time. The Planning Commission members commented the Zoning Hearing Board is available for matters such as these. Ms. Seeds will report this back to the Board of Supervisors.

Comments

1. Ms. Seeds handed out a list of various workshops/ webinars for upcoming training.
2. Ms. Seeds and Mr. Yearick commented on the upcoming workshops that pertain to MS-4 Stormwater Management Compliance. With the Chesapeake Bay initiative many new regulations are taking place; Middle Paxton at this time is exempt from the MS-4 regulations but it is only a matter of time that there will not be any additional exemptions.
3. Ms. Rodda wanted to thank all involved for the 4th annual Holiday Party. The Holiday Party is to thank all volunteers on Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Authorities along with the Senior Van Drivers, and Township and Borough Employees. The volunteers spend countless hours volunteering for the good of the residents and the Community. Ms. Rodda stated the Holiday Party brings together everyone and puts faces to names and great conversation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. *Mr. Morse moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Mr. Stone, the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectively Submitted,


Julie A. Seeds
Recording Secretary