

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Kathleen Hunsicker - Absent
Tessie McNeely

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Interim Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
James Hersh, Gilmore Associates Township Engineer
Chad Dixson, McMahan Traffic Engineer
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Board of Supervisors met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of personnel, litigation and real estate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dale Moss, 508 Hobby Horse, came with concerns of the traffic and speed on Gypsy Hill Road. He understands that law enforcement is not permitted to use radar to track speed, but the issue needs to be addressed in some other way. The road is not safe for pedestrians to walk on. Mr. Moss suggested better signage, specifically at the S-curve and the bridge notifying drivers of the 15mph speed limit. He also suggested lowering the speed limit and painting stripes on the road at the one lane bridge. Mr. Dixson stated that he could collect data along with the police. There are traffic calming measures we can take, but we would need to go through PennDot's permitting process and Lower Gwynedd Township would need to maintain and pay for those measures taken. Mr. Dixson stated that there are funding programs that PennDOT offers that help to pay for improvements like this, however, funds are limited. He has already submitted requests for other locations in the township. Ms. Duckett mentioned that walkability is a focus of the comp plan and is a major concern of the BOS. Chief Kenny commented that the road signs apply to the drivers, not pedestrians. PennDOT intends for pedestrians to use trails and sidewalks. Ms. McNeely mentioned that there are similar issues on School House Road, particularly for kids walking to the bus stop.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Resolution 2023-6 Preliminary/final subdivision approval of lot line change at 541 Station Lane

Jessica and Joseph Ward of 541 Station Lane are seeking approval for a lot line adjustment between two parcels located on Plymouth Road in the A-Residential Zoning District. The proposed plan is to convey 0.17 acres from lot #1 to lot#2 owned by the Wards. No construction is proposed. The project was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on January 18th, 2023. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve Resolution 2023-6 granting preliminary/final approval to the 541 Station Lane Lot Line Adjustment Plan. Motion passed 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Transportation Improvements – recap of latest plans

- a. Spring House Intersection – Stephanie Butler, from McMahon presented a slideshow to review the road widening project at the Spring House intersection. Ms. Butler reviewed and explained the timeline for the project, vegetation removal, stormwater control, movement of utility lines and addressed traffic concerns of the BOS. The work on both Norristown Road and on Sumneytown Pike can be completed concurrently if traffic can be controlled. Construction will typically occur between the hours of 9-3 with a staging area to be determined. Once the bid is awarded that will be decided.
- b. McKean Road pedestrian improvements – Mr. Dixon reviewed the plans for the pedestrian crossings at the entrance of the YMCA and the entrance of Spring House Farms. He clarified that the improvements at Spring House Farms would include a painted crosswalk, a spur, warning signs “Pedestrian Ahead”, ADA ramps and a radar speed display sign. At the YMCA Entrance the existing crosswalk will be removed. In its place there will be a painted crosswalk, ADA ramps, a refuge island, two pedestal mounted flashers and an overhead flasher. The flasher will be activated by a pedestrian when crossing and then turn off. They are waiting on one easement to be executed and then the work can begin. The contractor is ready to go and can complete the work in a 5-week time span once the easement is completed.
- c. McKean Road study – Mr. Dixon stated that they are working on a study that will address issues related to traffic speeds, lanes approaching Norristown Road and access to the SHIP, YMCA and J&J driveways. The lanes will need to be lengthened to accommodate traffic at Norristown Road. This study is a focus on McKean Road only. This study will include planning level costs estimates, pedestrian crossings and connections and traffic calming. It will take roughly 4-6 weeks for the analysis to be completed, at which time, the information will be reviewed by staff and then presented to the BOS for review. This project will be funded by contributions from SHIP, J&J and the township.

Discussion about special events process and notifications

Ms. Gleason stated that after the last BOS meeting, staff discussed the special events process. It was agreed that having an ordinance for larger events was too much. Staff would like to develop a process for such events. Staff will do a procedural review and then have it reviewed by the BOS. The BOS felt this was a good idea. Ms. Duckett asked that the Parks and Recreation Board be made aware and to thank them for the time they have put into reviewing the ordinance.

Authorization to advertise bid for annual paving program

The road program will consist of two contracts one for Mill/Overlay and the second for Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course. The bids will go out by the end of February and the bid opening for the 2023 Road Program will be held on March 30, 2023. Consideration for awarding the bid will go in front of the BOS at the first meeting

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in April. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to advertise the paving program. Motion passed 4-0.

Authorization to advertise bid for paving the parking lot at Pen-Ambler Park

Gilmore is seeking authorization to advertise the bid for reconstruction of the existing parking lot with the PA DEP approved capping plan. Additional improvements include re-grading, asphalt trail repairs and new parking lot line striping. The bids will go out at the end of February and the bid opening will be at the end of March. Gilmore will seek BOS approval at an April meeting. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize the advertisement for bids. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of minutes – January 25, 2023

The Board of Supervisors received the minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded Ms. McNeely to approve the minutes. Motion passed 3-0. (Ms. Martin abstained, as she was not present for that meeting).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Relations Commission (HRC) – Ms. Martin stated that the HRC is working on completing a complaint form for the website, as well as a paper copy for the public. Members are actively attending events in the area and are reaching out to companies in the area to partner with.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Martin stated that the committee is actively working on the strategic plan. They will be meeting with Gilmore and holding public forums in the near future.

EAC- Mr. Twersky stated that the EAC worked on scheduling various events. They also discussed both the flag lot and tree cutting ordinances.

STAFF UPDATES

Chief Kenny stated that Bethlehem Baptist Church along with the Synagogue have held some gatherings related to the Tyre Nichols tragedy. The Wissahickon Faith Alliance have been meeting at Starbucks and the events have been well attended.

Ms. Worman stated that the comp plan steering committee met. The County Planners walked away with a lot of information. Beacon properties was discussed and the representatives provided good input.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

There were no comments from the supervisors other than Go Birds!

Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion at 8:24 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Farzetta
Administrative Assistant