

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Tessie McNeely
Jimmy Chong -absent

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Office Manager
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer, Gilmore
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer, Bowman Company
John Farrell, Project Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator
Sandi Feight, Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:10pm 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 (BOS) met in an executive session on January 6, 2025, and prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of real estate, personnel, and potential litigation.

PRESENTATION: 2024 Environmental Advisory Council Growing Green Awards

Maureen Nunn, a member of the Environmental Advisor Council (EAC), reviewed the EAC's Going Green Award, emphasizing it is not about finding the most sustainable person or organization but about identifying activities consistent with the EAC's values. Paige Menton from Journeywork was recognized with the 2025 Honorable Mention for their work with neighborhoods, schools and congregations, enhancing ecological landscapes, and engaging volunteers. Journeywork has worked on 105 yards, with 17 in Lower Gwynedd, and introduced a set of Pollinator Palooza plants to address different needs. They have 200 volunteers and operate like a regular business with a board.

Foulkeways at Gwynedd was named the 2025 Going Green winner for their comprehensive programs in energy, water, land, waste minimization, and community outreach. They have installed solar panels,

charging stations, LED lights, and energy-saving appliances. Foulkeways also works on water stabilization, sustainable land practices, and waste minimization, including compostable waste bins. They have engaged Wissahickon Charter School to train the next generation of environmental enthusiasts.

Maureen Nunn acknowledged the contributions of the Going Green Award Committee, including Rea Monaghan, Marianne Gray, Rich Valiga, and Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Public hearing for a conditional use application for Lower Gwynedd Little League to permit two new scoreboards with sponsorship signs to replace two existing scoreboards at Ingersoll Park at 905 Wister Avenue

The Lower Gwynedd Little League (LGLL) is proposing the replacement of the scoreboards on both the minor and major baseball fields with sponsorship signs. LGLL is seeking relief for the replacement of the existing scoreboards per section 1298.14 of the zoning code. The information provided was transcribed by a court reporter and will be available upon request. The BOS has 45 days to render a decision. A decision will be made at the February 25, 2025, BOS meeting. Ms. Duckett made a motion to close the record, seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Consider request from the Environmental Advisory Council for WeConservePA membership

WeConservePA manages the EAC network creating opportunities for EAC volunteers throughout Pennsylvania to share experiences and solve environmental problems together. The Lower Gwynedd EAC have gotten many ideas and information from the events WeConservePA hosts. The EAC is seeking approval to join WeConservePA at the minimum dues level of \$295.00. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely, to approve the EAC's membership to WeConservePA for \$295. Motion passed 4-0.

Consider addition to list of volunteer firefighters to receive 2024 earned income tax credits

A Volunteer Service Credit Program was adopted in 2023 for volunteers from the Wissahickon Fire Company and the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. This program provides up to a \$1,000 credit for the Township's earned income tax (EIT). The North Penn Volunteer Fire Company provided a notarized list of Lower Gwynedd taxpayers who satisfied the eligibility criteria in Resolution #2023-16. The BOS needs to approve the list of fire volunteers before they are eligible to seek the tax credits through their annual EIT return. A list for the Wissahickon Fire Company was previously approved at the December 10, 2024, BOS meeting. Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve the volunteers named on the list, seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 4-0.

Consider approval of a RACP cooperation agreement with Gwynedd Mercy University (GMU) and the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority (RDA)

GMU received a \$2 million grant through the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for improvements to Loyola Hall, as well as an outdoor space in front of the Triplex. For GMU to receive the grant funds, Lower Gwynedd Township must approve a cooperation agreement authorizing the project and agreeing to reimburse the state certain contingent repayment obligations should any expenses be disapproved by the state. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the cooperation agreement with GMU and the RDA. Motion passed 4-0.

Consider approval of proposal from Bowman Consulting Group to design the traffic signal modernization project at Penllyn Pike and Trewellyn Avenue / Old Penllyn Pike for \$47,000 plus reimbursable expenses

Bowman presented a proposal for the traffic signal modernization at Penllyn Pike and Trewellyn Avenue/Old Penllyn Pike. The project will include a new controller assembly, signal supports and signal heads. A new emergency preemption system and non-invasive stop bar detection system will also be installed. Additional installation will include an upgraded pedestrian facility, including ADA ramps and a pedestrian signal head with countdown and APS push buttons. Lower Gwynedd was awarded a DCED/CFA Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant for this project. The grant will cover 80% with a 20% match from the Township. The project is expected to take 18 months, with construction potentially occurring in the summer or fall of 2026. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the proposal for the traffic signal modernization project at Penllyn Pike and Trewellyn Avenue/Old Penllyn Pike. Motion passed 4-0.

Consider approval of a license agreement for 1137 McKean Road

The residents at 1137 Mc Kean Road have erected a shed on Township property. The Township is willing to consider and grant the owner's permission to keep the shed in its present location encroaching on Township property, subject to the understanding, agreements and acknowledgments set forth in the license agreement. The property owners have signed the agreement. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the Encroachment License Agreement. Motion passed 4-0.

Township Engineer Report - January 2025

The BOS received the January 2025 Township Engineer Report from Gilmore and Associates. There were no questions or comments.

Traffic Engineer Report - January 2025

The BOS received the January 2025 Traffic Engineer Report from Bowman. There were no questions or comments.

Approval of invoice report

The BOS received the invoice report for checks dated January 28, 2025, totaling \$356,414.95. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the invoice report dated January 28, 2025. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of minutes - January 6, 2025

The BOS received the minutes from January 6, 2025, BOS meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the meeting minutes of January 6, 2025. Motion passed 4-0.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

The BOS received the liaison reports for both the Planning Commission and the EAC. There were no questions or comments.

STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Gleason mentioned that we were awarded a flood mitigation grant in the amount of \$27,200 that will be used for the Penllyn Flood Study. Mr. Hersh stated that during a community meeting residents voiced their concerns regarding flooding around Penllyn. This study will be similar to the one conducted for the Houston Creek Flood Study.

Ms. Gleason then provided an update on the recently received annual DEP recycling grant, which, at \$34,000, is almost twice as large as last year's. Lower Gwynedd is a member of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC), which submits the paperwork for this grant on behalf of the eleven-member municipalities. The NMCRC allocations were changed to reflect the amount of recycling done by Lower Gwynedd residents, not the population size of the Township.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely thanked staff for the update on the grants. She also thanked staff for the great info that has been provided to residents regarding recycling. She congratulated the recipients of the Going Green Awards and thanked the EAC committee for their hard work completing the evaluation process.

Ms. Martin also congratulated the Going Green Award recipients. She then invited everyone to come out to the community conversation on Thursday, January 30th to discuss the proposed development on Norristown Road.

Mr. Twersky thanked Public Works for their hard work taking care of the snow.

Danielle Duckett also thanked public works for a job well done. She congratulated the Going Green recipients and the EAC. She also welcomed the public to come to the community meeting on January 30th.

Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Farzetta
Michelle Farzetta