

PIKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, August 28, 2023

The August 28, 2023 Pike County Planning Commission meeting was held in the Pike County Administration Building, Commissioners Meeting Room and via Zoom/Conference Call.

Present: Dennis Brink, Mary Ann Conza, Keith Raser, Fred Suljic, Frank Tarquinio.

Excused - David Zeiler and Commissioner Ron Schmalzle

Staff: Planning staff present: Mike Mrozinski, Jessica Yoder, and Brian Snyder.

CALL TO ORDER – The Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS – Michael added PCCD Nominations to New Business

ACTION ON MINUTES: June 26, 2023 – **Motion** made by Fred Suljic, seconded by Mary Ann Conza. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT

Correspondence/Meetings/Seminars/Workshops/Items of Interest – List circulated on the back of the Agenda. Mike discussed the DEP time extension to October 23rd for the Eastern Pike Sewage 537 Plan. The Township Officials Convention will be held on October 6th at the Best Western in Westfall. Monroe and Statewide LSA Casino grant funds are available. Municipalities are urged to apply. Course in Zoning is available at Kings College October 12, 19, 26 from 6-9pm. There is a \$45 fee. Pa Planning Association conference will be in Scranton this year from October 15-17. Grant award to Miribito Convenience store in Lords Valley for an EV charging station. The award was \$830,400. Brian discussed the Road Safety Audits performed by PennDOT and NEPA staff on 7 intersections of concern. A \$320k grant application was submitted by NEPA Alliance to fund a study of the last section of SR2001. The study would assess the utility, environmental, and ROW needs and project all needed funding for the overall project. Dirt & Gravel Road funding is available and there is an annual workshop scheduled for September 26. The Eastern Pa Freight Alliance is performing a Freight Plan Survey in eastern Pa. A variable message board will be installed at exit 26 and cameras are planned to be installed at exits 30 & 46 and additional funding is sought to add cameras to exits 17 & 20.

Financial Report: \$ 920.00 in income from June 24 through August 24, 2023.

Plan Review Report: there were 14 Plan Reviews from June 24 through August 24, 2023. They consisted of 10 Lot Consolidations/Lot Improvements; 2 Minor Subdivisions; 1 Major Subdivision, and 1 Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance as listed on the back of the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Shawnee Walker 69kV Transmission Line – Michael asked for updates from the board as minimal information has been provided since our last meeting. We will continue to monitor this pending project.

DCED Broadband Infrastructure Grant – Pencor/Blue Ridge & Verizon – Michael reported that both Pencor and Verizon are applying for grant funds to improve service in western Pike County. Verizon is looking at a major expansion plan with “Fiber to the Home” service. A future grant is available and hopefully they will look to address additional areas. A list of unserved & underserved areas is being maintained and populated in the Planning/Mapping office.

Business Incubator – Mike reported that the idea of a business incubator has stalled. The Shohola site may be utilized by Pike County Veterans Affairs that would provide additional services for veterans to get jobs and advance businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

PA Multimodal Grant – Brian reported on his successful grant application to replace the Carlton Road Bridge in the amount of \$517,176.

PCCD Nominations – Micheal asked the Commission to consider any new nominations for the Pike County Conservation District Board. This is for a Public Director position on the Board. The topic was tabled until the next meeting for members to consider possible nominees.

PROJECTS & UPDATES

Preservation Programs

Agricultural Land Preservation (ALP) – Jessica updated that Pike Co ALP has a display at the GDS Fair. Farm inspections are being planned for Pike’s 2 preserved farms.

Scenic Rural Character Preservation (SRCP) – Jessica stated that the Geocache Series was launched in June with a great response. A few planning projects are continuing.

Grant Programs

Pike Comprehensive Plan Update – Mike reported that the Community Collaboration Meetings were recently completed. They were held in the 3 school districts. Results from these sessions will be distilled into a report and will help feed the development of the top priorities for the County. The draft plan is projected to be available for public review in the Spring.

Pike County Open Space Plan Update – Jessica stated that the top two consultant proposals were interviewed, and the top choice was relayed to the Commissioners for their consideration. Plan kickoff will shortly follow the award of a consultant contract.

Kintz Creek High Hazard Dam – Mike reported that the consultant is looking at a new access point that will greatly reduce the impact to the existing hunting club on the property. Once finalized, Pike County can complete the agreement with the club related to restoration of the site.

Pike County Tick Borne Disease Task Force – Brian stated that the Task Force will be at Elder Justice Day on September 8th to provide educational materials to attendees.

Pike County Road Task Force – Brian discussed attendance issues and difficulty obtaining quorum.

Solid Waste/Recycling Update – Mike updated on the status of Bennett Avenue project. Main building is under renovation, once complete the recycling stage will begin.

PLAN & ORDINANCE REVIEWS

Milford Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Revision - Wellhead Protection – Brian explained that this is the third revision. It is another minor change but they are still referencing a stormwater protection plan instead of a source water plan.

Milford Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Job Box – Brian described that job sites have large storage/work boxes on site. This amendment limits use and duration.

Milford Township Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance – Brian said that this is a full ordinance re-write and many sections have changed substantially. The ordinance is still under review at this time.

Lackawaxen Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Boat/Golf Cart/RV Storage – Brian updated that this use is not currently defined so they are regulating the use in the MU zone.

Lackawaxen - Woodloch Pines – Major Subdivision – Brian described the plan which entails a 9-lot subdivision near Woodloch Springs in the location of the existing driving range. On-lot and community septic were discussed as well as maintenance agreements.

MISCELLANEOUS – MaryAnn inquired if there is an update on the Park vs Recreation Area issue. She stated that survey crews were on site on the NJ side. Brian stated that the NJ Sierra Club pulled their support of the Park proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by MaryAnn Conza, seconded by Fred Suljic. All in favor. **Motion passed.**