

MINUTES
EXETER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
DECEMBER 23, 2013

A Public Hearing of the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors was called to order on Monday, December 23, 2013, at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Building by Chairman Donald R. Wilson.

Supervisors Present: Donald R. Wilson, Chairman
 Gary E. Lloyd, Vice Chairman
 Dona L. Starr
 Kenneth A. Smith
 Jeff Bukowski

Others in Attendance:
 Troy S. Bingaman, Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer
 Andrew J. Bellwoar, Esquire, Solicitor
 Cheryl A. Franckowiak, Zoning/Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

Pledge of Allegiance

The Meeting was opened with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wilson stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to review the Restricted Office Commercial (ROC) Zoning Ordinance & Map Amendments; and, he opened the floor for comments.

Public Comment

Ray Brubaker, 3407 Perkiomen Avenue, with his wife **Susan Brubaker** and his neighbor **Arlene Unger**, 3409 Perkiomen Avenue, stated his concern was the same as before. He felt Reiffton was enhanced by the pleasant residential properties along its streets. He felt commercial stores would negate some of the value of the residential area. He stated the reasons for expanding this commercial zone were that this action would enhance the Township; but, he felt it would do the opposite. He stated one of the reasons he moved to Reiffton was because of the attractiveness of the residential area. He noted the Promenade Mall had practically no business activity left and felt expanding this zone was not the solution to enhance Exeter's income. He requested the Board preserve something of the beauty which is the residential nature of Reiffton and all of Exeter Township.

Gary Wegman, 3650 Perkiomen Avenue, spoke in favor of this ordinance and clarified what the changes in ROC Zoning would mean. He stated those uses still had to comply with all the laws and stipulations within the Ordinance. He felt even though it was a concern of some of the residents he felt this would enhance the area.

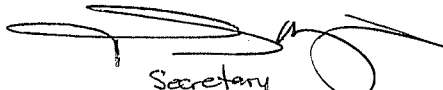
Gary Lloyd, 35th & Romig Avenue, stated he felt it would be a good change to have some businesses to walk to.

Arlene Unger stated the businesses we already have on the Avenue are ragged- looking as there are no sidewalks or curbing available for walking, and unless the Township was going to support these businesses with the necessary sidewalks, it would not be wise to put more of them there. Mr. Bukowski felt there were other things that could be done to enhance the look of the area. He felt discussions during the planner process should address that issue. Mr. Lloyd agreed. Mr. Wilson stated the businesses you could not walk to were on the north side of the zone; not in the zone. Mr. Brubaker objected; however, Mrs. Unger understood the law to say businesses could not be large and disruptive to the character of the area. She added she would be unhappy if signage like that placed at 3650 Perkiomen Avenue was put up next to her property. Mrs. Unger stated as it stands, when you drive down Perkiomen Avenue and get to the trolley stop, you have a lovely residential area that should be preserved.

Mr. Bukowski stated a free breakfast would be held at the Reading Country Club on January 25th to kick off the visioning process with the planner where these very issues would be discussed. He stated he intended to vote in favor of this ordinance; however, he looked forward to a discussion on the preservation of the Township. He stated the community was invited and asked those in attendance to come to breakfast to have this very discussion. Mr. Bingaman stated RSVP's were needed as space was limited.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilson, hearing no further comment, adjourned the public hearing at 6:44 P.M.


Secretary