

MINUTES
EXETER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Exeter Township Planning Commission was held on Monday, December 15, 2014 at the Township Hall, 4975 DeMoss Road, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Donald R. Wilson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Donald R. Wilson, Chairman
John W. Bittig, Vice Chairman
Gary L. Shane, Secretary
Greg T. Unger
Glen Powell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Joseph Rogosky, GVC Consulting Engineer
Linda Cusimano, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Cheryl Franckowiak, Zoning Officer

1. MINUTES

MOTION BY Mr. Shane, seconded by Mr. Bittig to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2014 Planning Commission meeting. The motion carried with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Bittig, Mr. Shane, Mr. Powell voting in favor and Mr. Unger abstaining.

2. AGENDA

MOTION BY Mr. Unger, seconded by Mr. Powell, to approve the agenda of the December 15, 2014 Planning Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public comment

Peter Gipprich, 18 Golfview Lane, had a question and wanted to get some information about the possible hotel on Township property. Mr. Gipprich asked if he was at the correct meeting for this. Mr. Wilson replied one of them. Mr. Gipprich asked if the hotel was being built on the property/footprint of the Reading Country Club. Mr. Wilson replied that the original plan was to locate the hotel on the portion used for the driving range. Mr. Gipprich then asked if this was the same committee to discuss the rumor of a new fire company building and where that might be located. Mr. Wilson replied that we would get involved at some point, but if he was asking where the original footprint was located that would have been directly across from the township building on Gibraltar Road and possibly a portion of the Country Club as it would not interfere with any holes on the golf course. We have not discussed this. He further stated that it was mainly the Board of Supervisors that would discuss this; however we would be the correct Board at some point – we would review the land development plans for the project. Mr. Unger stated that once it comes before us it was a little too late, because they have already spent 10's of thousands of dollars for engineering and a lot of decisions have already been made, and then the plans come before us to review. Mr. Bittig stated that we encourage them to come in with an informal discussion or submit a Sketch Plan. Mr. Gipprich asked if any discussion for this were a part of the minutes where the general public had access to. Mr. Rogosky replied that they had approached the Board for funding and was part of meeting minutes, but they haven't been before the Board in over a year. Mr. Gipprich stated that everyone's concerns were what was before us as a community and to try to make an educated decision as to whether or not it would lead to good use of time, talent, and treasure. Mr. Wilson stated that the Board of Supervisors did ask for appraisals of the Country Club – 1) the Country Club as a whole, 2) the driving range on its own, 3) the club house on its own, 4) to see what would be the best use for the Country Club. Mr. Gipprich asked about the eminent domain taking of the Reading Country Club – how does any development supersede the ability to go ahead and build on this property. Mr. Wilson replied that has been the point since the Township took the property by eminent domain for public use as park and recreation land; can they do anything with it other than park and recreation? We haven't heard anything yet.

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Mr. Unger stated that would be a question for the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Shane asked if the Steering Committee still held open meetings. Mr. Wilson replied that we did not have one this month, but would meet next in January 2015. Mr. Gippich stated that as a 28 year resident of Exeter Township he is highly interested in making sure that we go forward and things are out in the open. He then thanked the Planning Commission for their time.

3. RE-ORGANIZATION & SET MEETING DATES

MOTION BY Mr. Unger, seconded by Mr. Bittig, to keep the same meeting date as provided on the calendar, the third Monday of the month at 7pm. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION BY Mr. Bittig, seconded by Mr. Powell, to retain the same officers we have at the present time: Mr. Donald R. Wilson; Chairman, Mr. John W. Bittig; Vice Chairman, Mr. Gary L. Shane; Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

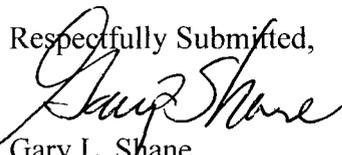
4. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Unger asked where we were with the rezoning of Oak Parkway. Mr. Rogosky replied that it was his understanding that it was tabled at this time. Mr. Unger then asked for a summary of the proposed hotel on the Reading Country Club property, would it be something the Township would build and run or would they be putting it out for a hotel chain to build and operate. Mr. Wilson replied that through the Steering Committee the approach was to do a hotel by itself or a hotel and resort. He wasn't sure how far they have gone to contact anyone concerning this and the Township would not build it, they were looking for outside contractors. Mr. Bittig asked if we heard anything from the School District about the transportation center at the Owatin School. Mr. Bittig stated that he appeared before the Board of Supervisors a month ago and explained that the certification of order for building the Owatin School stated that if they planned to build anything else on that property they would have to go back to the Zoning Hearing Board. He further stated that this was a legal order. Mr. Wilson felt that the School Board would come before the Board of Supervisors and ask them to rezone that property; once they rezone that property that order is null and void.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mr. Unger, seconded by Mr. Shane, to adjourn the December 16, 2014 meeting of the Exeter Township Planning Commission at 7:26 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary L. Shane,
Secretary
lrc