

ADAMS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
WORK SESSION
September 21, 2020

The Work Session meeting of the Adams Township Planning Commission was held on Monday, September 21, 2020, at the Adams Township Municipal Building located at 690 Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members of the Planning Commission were present: Marty McKinney, Marilyn Watson, Liz McMeekin, Bob Downie, Steve Madeja and Brett Schultz. Also, present were, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Joe Julian, Township Engineer Ronald Olsen, Solicitor Sean Gallagher and Suzanne Hanovick Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Mr. McKinney asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for Clay S. Morrow who passed on Monday, September 7, 2020. He commented on Mr. Morrows life and experiences. Mr. McKinney also expressed how much Clay loved the Township and how very involved he was.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Revisions

Trails

Phil Gyskewicz who works for Olsen and Craft Associates stated that their goal is to try to connect with the Commodore Perry Trail. He said local municipalities are actively working to expand their sidewalks and trail networks. Mr. Gyskewicz said they would like to have feedback from the public and the board. He spoke about a possible connection with the Commodore Perry Trail through Treesdale to Adams Park. He explained how the topography makes it difficult. Mr. McKinney discussed possible ways of funding. Mr. Schultz stated he loved the idea, but he questioned how to advance without spending millions. Mr. McKinney said a plan is needed on what to do in order to move forward. There was an open discussion with the residents and the Planning Commission. Pete Ferraro was present to represent Trail Adams. He spoke about how the trails can connect in the future. Marilyn Watson suggested contacting the Historical Society for information on how to reach out to the railroads for advice. Marylyn said they should contact the Rails to Trails Organization for additional information on trail surfaces. She also suggested having guidelines for walking on the present roads. She said these guidelines need to be in place for the safety of all pedestrians. Mr. Crouthamel recommended adding the trail plan to the Comprehensive Plan. He said the plan needs to be more precise with more details. Mr. Crouthamel gave examples on how the trails could be laid out in the future. Mrs. McMeekin said Trail Adams needs to start working on a priority list.

Slopes

Mr. McKinney explained the park hill next to the township building was a 3 to 1 slope. He said he wants to give everyone a clear perspective. He said it was designed to be left natural. The Board of Supervisors decided they wanted it maintained. Mr. Gallagher said the maximum slope distance should be 100 feet. He explained after 100 feet of slope distance there must be a minimum of 10-foot level vegetated bench. There was an open discussion on 3 to 1 and 2 to 1 slopes and benches and what would be the best. Mr. McCormick stated a cut doesn't mean there isn't a possibility for a landslide. Mr. Schultz explained why that would not happen. There were concerns on who the administrator would be due to qualifications.

Mr. McKinney thanked everyone for their participation and input. He stated both topics will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting and future Work Sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Marilyn Watson and seconded by Bob Downie the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Six were in favor.