

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. The meeting was open to the public, and a link to join the meeting via Zoom was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Liz Alakszay
Joe Roscioli
Janice Gottesfeld
Lee Ann Embrey

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Pam Gural-Bear, Assistant Township Manager
Ed Culp, Assistant Director of Public Works

Brian Dunn, Board of Supervisors Liaison

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes of May 4, 2022, was tabled to the July meeting for lack of a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The first summer concert of the season is scheduled for June 12 at Miller Park with music provided by Slippery Band.

The Township's application for Fitness Court has been approved. Staff is scheduled for a phone conference tomorrow with a representative of the organization. The project is in the fundraising stage and will go back to the Board of Supervisors before final approval.

The Township has been awarded a County grant in the amount of \$250,000 to go toward the pavilion, signage, shade structures, and disc golf course at Exton Park. The grant requires a 50% match by the Township.

Staff met with Merje, a West Chester sign company, to explore uniform signage for the Crossroads and Township parks. A landscape architect with SSM Group is working on Exton Park amenities, including dog park, and is expected to be completed this fall or early spring of next year. Mr. Culp said the planted grass at the dog park is currently struggling but hopes it will soon take root and outgrow the weeds. The Newsletter is expected to be in residents' homes in the next few weeks notifying that the dog park is expected to open this fall.

With the recent sale of the Pennypacker House, the current trail behind the House will need to be relocated, but no time frame has yet been set.

Public Services Commission
Minutes of the June 1, 2022, Meeting

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1. Review of Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Justin Smiley, Township Planner, was in virtual attendance and gave a presentation of Chesco Views new mapping photography implemented in March of this year. The new mapping (Nearmap) shows current pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and trails associated with the various new developments.

Mr. Smiley then showed the Development by Design map (located on the Township's website) that highlights sidewalk projects that have been completed by developers at the developers' expense saving taxpayer dollars. Such projects include those associated with Hanover, Keva Flats, and the Ship Road Couplet with the Chester Valley Trail spur.

Ms. Gottesfeld asked about pedestrian access to the Pearce Middle School, Boot Road Park, Whitford Train Station, and other locations from the Douglas Drive and Colwyn Terrace neighborhoods. Mr. Smiley said the focus is more on feasible alignments, and cited liability issues with Burke Road due to its narrow width, steep grade, blind spots, and speed at which motorists drive the road. He added that obtaining rights-of-way from property owners would be very expensive for the Township. He advised it would be better to work with the Homeowner Associations with the Township playing a supporting role.

Commission members noted that pedestrians are currently crossing Burke Road and asked what can be done to make it a safer crossing. Mr. Smiley suggested signage programs such as "Share the Road" signage and others that help calm traffic within neighborhoods, but he stressed that as a professional planner, Burke Road is not safe for pedestrians.

Peter Batchelor, an architect from Willistown Township, was in attendance and is interested in learning more about pedestrian connections in an effort to make Willistown more walkable. He will meet with Mr. Smiley at a later date.

Mr. Smiley advised that the Township is interested in developing a streetscape plan for the Crossroads area to beautify the area by adding pedestrian signage, banners, trash cans, benches, etc. The Township hopes to start this project next year and will be seeking feedback from the Public Services and other Township Commissions. Ms. Alakszay asked if any of the proposed improvements will help with flooding in the area. Mr. Smiley said it would and added that Hankin Group has proposed a stream restoration project as part of their next land development project that will greatly help with flooding.

Mr. Roscioli asked about the removal of the Sunoco oil tanks. Mr. Smiley did not know the reason they were removed but added that it is a benefit for the viewshed. Mr. Smiley then answered Commission members' questions regarding various developments within the Township. The property previously known as the "Lou Frame" site is now Summerhill, a 99-carriage home development, and the adjacent property is Exton Grove, a 220-townhome rental development. The proposed Wawa at the intersection of Ship Road and Route 30 has received land development approval and is in the process of reviewing and recording post-approval documents. Construction

Public Services Commission
Minutes of the June 1, 2022, Meeting

is expected to begin this fall. The Ship Inn is in the process of being sold and developed as a new brewery.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roscioli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Liz Alakszay,
Recording Secretary