

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**February 2, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**Solebury Township Hall**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Helen Tai, Chair, James Searing, Vice-chair, Paul Cosdon, Noel Barrett and Kevin Morrissey. Dennis H. Carney, Manager, Gretchen K. Rice, Assistant Manager, and Jordan B. Yeager, Solicitor, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Bills Payable

**Res. 2016-30 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Searing, the list of Bills Payable dated January 28, 2016 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

Approval of Minutes

**Res. 2016-31 – Upon a motion by Mr. Searing, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session were unanimously approved as written and posted.**

Ms. Tai and Mr. Cosdon requested revisions to the draft Minutes of January 19<sup>th</sup> related to the discussions related to New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry, the presentation made by the Free Library of New Hope - Solebury and the Certificate of Appropriateness on the Godley project.

**Res. 2016-32 – Upon a motion by Mr. Searing, seconded by Mr. Barret, the Minutes of the regular January 19, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved with revision.**

Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- The Board announced an executive session held prior to the meeting related to personnel.
- The Board announced that the second annual Solebury Day will be held at Laurel Park on September 17<sup>th</sup>, rain date September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board announced the resignation of James Trammell as the P&R representative to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.

**Res. 2016-33 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Searing, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Dan DuPont as the P&R representative to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.**

**Res. 2016-34 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed to appoint the following residents to the Township advisory committees:**

**Deidre Alderfer to the Environmental Advisory Council for a term to expire 12/31/2016;**  
**James Coan to the Land Preservation Committee for a term to expire 12/31/2017;**  
**John Francis to the Board of Appeals for a term to expire 12/31/2016.**

Supervisor Comment

- Ms. Tai provided the following update regarding a meeting with DEP Secretary, Quigley:

“Yesterday, Kevin Morrissey, Jordan Yeager, and I along with representatives of the Solebury School and PCWA met with PA DEP Secretary John Quigley and his staff regarding NHCS.

Some of the issues we discussed were:

1. Ineffective process by DEP in enforcing the EHB ruling and our frustration at the lack of progress in abating the public nuisance
2. Indecision for the last 3.5 years on the renewal of the NPDES permit, which regulates the amount of water pumped out of the quarry.
3. Inadequacy of the bond, which is set at ~ \$466,000 while the estimated cost of reclamation is \$2.0 million
4. Last Friday, DEP sent a letter to NHCS with changes to the reclamation plan. While the direction of the letter was encouraging, we raised several concerns, including:
  - a. Whether the number of people dedicated to reclamation of the quarry and restoration of the stream was enough
  - b. the reclamation plan does not contain a timeline nor concrete objective measurable criteria
  - c. how will they ensure appropriate monitoring of progress
  - d. how will they enforce non-compliance

The DEP stated that:

1. The restoration and reclamation would be completed in 3.12 years. This includes 6 months for stream restoration and the rest is for the high wall reclamation. Absolutely no extensions will be granted for reclamation unless new sink holes form (in which case time must be allocated to sink hole repair)
2. They will reconsider increasing the bond
3. They will turn to the NPDES permit now that the Reclamation Plan issues are addressed, however, they did not commit to a timeline.
4. They did not agree to increase the number of people devoted to reclamation nor to run stream restoration and reclamation concurrently
5. They will form a “communication group” that meets once a month to discuss the progress. This would include representatives from the DEP, the township, the school, PCWA, and the quarry.

We believe that Secretary Quigley heard and understood our concerns and are optimistic that he will take effective action. However, we will continue to work with the DEP to ensure follow through and abatement of the public nuisance.

I'd like to thank the Board of Supervisors, the Solebury School and Primrose Creek Watershed Association for their support in the preparation and participation in this meeting."

- Mr. Morrissey commented that he left the meeting with Secretary Quigley feeling encouraged regarding the New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry issue.
- Mr. Searing made the following announcement regarding Aquetong Spring Park:

"In April 2015, we celebrated the historic occasion of taking down the Aquetong Lake dam at Aquetong Spring Park. I'm pleased to announce that the Township was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation. This grant, under the Community Conservation Partnership program, along with matching funds from Solebury Township, will be used to help restore the stream bank and meadows, construct pedestrian paths and parking access, and create educational signage, ADA access, deer protection and other site improvements.

Many people and organizations played a role in helping us receive this grant. They include Township Manager Dennis Carney who spearheaded the project; Landscape Architect William Collins and his team at Simone Collins; the ad-hoc committee appointed by the BOS to provide guidance on the grant application, including Supervisor Jim Searing; Les Isbrandt, President of the Aquetong Watershed Association; Frank Nassetta representing Bucks County Trout Unlimited, and Barry Fetterolf on behalf of the township's Environmental Advisory Council. We also thank Solebury's Parks and Recreation Committee, the Carversville Farm Foundation, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Representative Scott Petri, State Senator Chuck McIlhenny and Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick for your continuing support.

We also want to recognize the major support by Bucks County Commissioners Rob Loughery, Diane Marseglia and Charlie Martin in helping us preserve this land, restore the stream, and for your direct assistance in helping us obtain this grant. Solebury, Bucks County and the Commonwealth are making a major commitment to restore the ecological integrity of the Aquetong Creek. Aquetong Spring Park, and the Aquetong Creek, will be a major recreational and educational resource for our township and the surrounding region. "

- Mr. Cosdon commended the Public Works Department personnel for their amazing work during the most recent storm.
- Mr. Searing commented on the success of the 2016 Winter Festival specifically thanking the Winter Festival committee members, local business and the many community organizations and individual volunteers involved.

#### Public Comment

- Ronald Norton of Solebury addressed the Board concerning a previous open records request that was not addressed to his satisfaction.

## PRESENTATION

Commissioner Robert G. Loughery was present to address the Board and to review County priorities, provide an update on the Justice Center, open space and agricultural preservations, etc.

Among the items discussed, the Commissioner highlighted the County's recent upgrade to the emergency management radio system, repairs to County bridges, and the County's AAA bond ratings.

In response to questions posed by a resident of Solebury regarding gas pipelines that could threaten farmland and open spaces, the Commissioner commented that he was not aware of any proposals in Solebury, but that in general principle he is in support of pipelines but they must be done in the right way.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business came before the Board

## NEW BUSINESS

SR 32 Trail – Traffic Signal Resolution - Stephanie Butler, P.E. of McMahon Associates, Inc. was present to address the Board related to the extension of Solebury Trail to complete a missing link from the existing Solebury Trail with the Canal Park and Magill's Hill recreation area.

Ms. Butler explained that the project involves the installation of a shared use path and pedestrian facilities along River Road that will provide both pedestrian and bicycle access via a 10-foot wide bituminous path along the north side of River Road. In order to connect to the existing trail, pedestrian connections that meet ADA standards and PennDOT regulations must be installed.

Post mounted signals for pedestrian and bicycle crossing must be installed near the Canal Park Driveway and at the junction of Lower York Road and River Road where the existing Solebury Trail terminates. These signals will contain flashers to alert drivers on River Road to expect pedestrians crossing River Road.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Searing, Ms. Butler explained that the flashers are only activated by push button when someone wants to cross the road. They do not flash before or after activated.

Both Ms. Butler and Mr. Carney noted that these signals are being required by PennDOT, and the \$1.7 million dollar grant is dependent on the Township's compliance with specific regulations, the flashing signs being one of those requirements.

**Res. 2016-35 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Manager to execute and submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to PennDOT on behalf of Solebury Township as proposed.**

SUBDIVISIONS/CONDITIONAL USES/LAND DEVELOPMENTS – No application were reviewed.

Public Comment

- The Board announced that an executive session would convene following the meeting regarding litigation.

Adjournment

**Res. 2016-36 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Searing, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted  
Gretchen K. Rice  
Assistant Manager  
Secretary/Treasurer