

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting

June 8, 2020

Minutes

Attendance: Dan Fest, TJ Francisco, William Jordan, Peter Brussock, Gretchen Rice, Keith Deussing, Lesley Marino, Joanna Waldron (Township Solicitor), Kevin Morrissey (Supervisor Liaison) and Jean Weiss (Planning Commission Administrator).

Absent: Amishi Castelli

I. Call to Order

At 7:04 p.m., the Solebury Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2020

Upon a motion made by Gretchen Rice, seconded by William Jordan, the Solebury Township Planning Commission approved the May 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Keith Deussing abstained.

III. Signs – Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Joanna Waldron briefly went through the updated draft sign ordinance stating the most recent draft incorporates all the comments from the May Planning Commission meeting. The main changes were related to snipe signs and limited duration signs.

The commission may want to consider limiting the number of limited duration signs at one location. The signs will go through a permitting process so it is not necessary, but something that may want to be considered.

The last change was putting back into the ordinance the original height limit for the different Zoning Districts. The 10' limit in the village districts, 15' in the residential RA & RB districts and the 18' only in the TNC & LI districts.

Keith Deussing asked if Joanna is aware of any other municipalities working on or recently approved a sign ordinance that was built from

scratch based on current law, not one that was already existing that was amended.

TJ Francisco asked that the table in the ordinance be updated to reflect the changes in the ordinance.

Joanna Waldron stated the one thing that was not incorporated into the ordinance were any of the particular location identification information regarding certain intersections that would be restricted from any sign placement.

Peter Brussock suggested for all intersections that freestanding signs be limited to 6ft. apart and 2ft. – 4ft. off the paved surface, that drastically reduces the number of signs that can be located at one intersection.

TJ Francisco asked what further action needs to be taken to move the ordinance forward. For review and recommendation at the July meeting could the revisions be added and the table updated and sent out to the commissioners a couple weeks before the meeting.

Peter Brussock questioned the misc. requirements in the table regarding freestanding signs and the required setback of 10 ft. from the cartway. How is the township viewing a cartway, I understand it as the edge of the pavement.

Gretchen Rice stated it had always been from the edge of the pavement.

Peter Brussock suggested a requirement of 4ft. from the pavement considering most of the signs in the township are non-conforming. It could be suggested that there be a 4ft. requirement and recommendation of better enforcement.

TJ Francisco commented he is concerned with the set-back from natural water features i.e. streams, creeks, ponds etc., is there a way to include that in the setbacks.

Peter Brussock suggested the language of any riparian corridor or wetlands.

Keith Deussing asked what the timeframe for receiving the updated red-lined version for review.

Joanna Waldron stated it would be sent out by Monday June 15th for review prior to the July meeting.

IV. Sustainability Register

TJ Francisco commented that the EAC is also working on a project of sustainability, and asked Kevin Morrissey if he could go into more detail of the project.

Kevin Morrissey suggest that Eric Allen, EAC Chair would be more equipped to go into better detail and suggested that TJ and Eric discuss what each committee is working on.

Peter Brussock suggested not confusing what the EAC is working on vs. the sustainability registry which is a comprehensive inventory of all the components of proactive committed community to sustainability.

The committee agreed to take (3) sections of the registry through the next (4) meetings to be discussed amongst the committee members to compile a recommendation to be made to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year.

Peter Brussock suggested having the recommendation to the Board completed by November to be put on the list of priorities for next year, as well as any suggestions/recommendation on funding.

Kevin Morrissey stated it would need to be completed no later than September for any recommendations on budgeting for next year, as the Board will be finalizing the budget late October early November.

TJ Francisco suggested getting a brief summary to the Board by September.

Kevin Morrissey suggested coming up with a list of 3-5 priorities to be presented to the Board by September, with an understanding that there will be more.

Peter Brussock felt it would be valuable if one of the recommendations was specific to what type of consulting help the committee would suggest for next year and some vision of what the process would be.

Kevin Morrissey stated that it would be helpful to the Board to have some sort of range on what it would cost the Township for budgeting purposes for next year.

Peter Brussock suggested compiling a draft summary prior to the next meeting in July. The committee agreed.

Kevin Morrissey suggested if the committee gets the summary to the Board in August that it could be added to the August or September Board meeting,

so that the community is aware of the efforts the Planning Commission is working on.

VI. Adjournment

Upon a Motion by Peter Brussock seconded by Dan Fest, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Weiss
Planning Commission Administrator, Solebury Township