

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 2, 2024 – 9:30 A.M.
Solebury Township Hall/Virtual - Hybrid Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Hanna Howe, Vice-Chair, Christy Cheever, John S. Francis, Kevin Morrissey, Christopher Garges, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Township Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

The recording device was turned on.

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

II. Approval of Bills Payable – March 28, 2024

Res. 2024-67 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe, the list of Bills Payable dated March 28, 2024 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2024

The March 19, 2024 meeting minutes were moved to the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

IV. Announcements / Resignations / Appointments

Executive Session

Mr. Baum Baicker announced that an Executive Session was held directly prior to the April 2, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting discussing Legal, Personnel, Zoning and Acquisition Matters.

V. Supervisor Comment

- Mr. Baum Baicker expressed gratitude to the Environmental Advisory Council for a successful E-waste Recycling Event.
- Mr. Baum Baicker acknowledged Mr. Garges' participation in the Student Mock Interviews held by the New Hope Solebury School District.

VI. New Business

Land Preservation Committee – Act 153 – Certification of Eligible Properties to New Hope Solebury School District

The Board of Supervisors certifies properties eligible for the Act 153 program on an annual basis. This program authorizes the New Hope Solebury School District to exempt by resolution certain real property from further Millage increases imposed.

Res. 2024-68 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to certify the list of properties eligible under the Act 153 Program and authorize Administration to forward the list to the New Hope Solebury School District as prepared.

Land Preservation Committee – Property # 167 – Inclusion into the Program

Property # 167 consists of 30.60 acres located on Paxson Road.

A motion was made by Phil Johnson and seconded by Sally Drayer to recommend inclusion of property #167 into the Land Preservation Program.

Res. 2024-69 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Cheever, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge the eligibility of Property # 167 into the Solebury Township Land Preservation Program.

Land Preservation – Dietterich Property (6750 Phillips Mill Road, TMP #s 41-013-107 & 41-013-099-003) – Agreement of Sale for Conservation Easement

The property consists of 12.98 acres located on Phillips Mill Road. Margaret Dietterich has agreed to the conservation easement purchase price of two hundred and sixteen thousand seven hundred and forty-two dollars (\$216,742.00). Following the two-week public comment period, if no comments are received, the Board of Supervisors at their April 16, 2024 meeting, may authorize the Township Manager to execute the documents related to the sale.

Res. 2024-70 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Agreement of Sale for a Conservation Easement on the Dietterich property, 12.98 acres on Phillips Mill Road; purchase price of two hundred and sixteen thousand seven hundred and forty-two dollars (\$216,742.00).

Naming of the Route 202 Property

Mr. Morrissey opened the discussion with an overview of the survey, 202 Property Committee and actions taken to date. Mr. Morrissey opened the floor to Nancy Stock-Allen, former 202 Property Advisory Committee Chair. Ms. Stock-Allen offered an overview of the Committee’s work and addressed the recommendation by the Committee:

In recommending potential names and ideas for the 202 property, the committee reflected on the year’s discussions of the Vision Statement and the essence of the park. We recommend the following criteria should be considered;

- *“Solebury” should be part of the name to reflect the park’s connection to the Township community.*
- *The name should feel welcoming to all Solebury residents; reflect nature and the environment; be interesting, attractive and easy to remember.*

Some name recommendations:

- *Solebury Common or Solebury Commons
Common ground is open to all and are traditionally natural places.*
- *Solebury Central Park
Identifies its location in the community.*
- *Solebury Green
Invokes the idea of a village green; the heart of the community.*
- *We also recommend consideration of the name, Solebury Park.
While we recognize this park, name is already in use, it is simple and attractive and could help “brand” this park as well as “advertise our community” to the continual traffic passing along the busy but anonymous 202 highway corridor. The park on Upper Mountain Road could be renamed; it currently is not well-known to the general community.*

Conversation ensued on possible names for the park and the inclusion of a subtitle.

Res. 2024-71 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to request the Solebury Township Parks & Recreation Board to review and supply the Board of Supervisors with their feedback on designating the 202 Property either Solebury Center Park or Solebury Central Park.

Rommel Zoning Hearing Board Application – Authorize Solicitor to Attend

The applicant, Patrick M. Rommel, is requesting a variance from the requirements of Sections 27-404(1)(B)(g), 27-2510(5) and 27-2205(1)(F) to permit the construction of an approximate 974 square foot addition to the right of the existing single-family dwelling located at 6065 Upper Mountain Road, New Hope, Solebury Township, Bucks County and identified as Tax Parcel No. 41-021-003-001.

Res. 2024-72 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Solicitor to attend the Rommel Zoning Hearing Board application hearing/s to represent the interest of the Board of Supervisors in this matter.

Lint & Berlin Zoning hearing Board Application – Authorize Solicitor to Attend

This topic was eliminated from the agenda.

VII. Public Comment – No Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi, Secretary