

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 21, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

The July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Solebury Township Board of Supervisors meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform. The meeting was held in this manner due to the current State and Federal regulations in place from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair, Noel Barrett, John S. Francis, Robert McEwan, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was then turned on.

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

Mr. Baum Baicker honored John Lewis, Former United States Representative.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – July 2, 2020 and July 16, 2020

Res. 2020-88 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the list of Bills Payable dated July 2, 2020 and July 16, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Res. 2020-89 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the Minutes of the June 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 dealing with Land Preservation and Zoning.

- Appointment of CL Lindsay to the Historic Architectural Review Board

Res. 2020-90 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to appoint CL Lindsay, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Historic Architectural Review Board to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Kevin MacDonald for term ending December 31, 2023.

- Resignation of Steven Segal from the Zoning Hearing Board

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Steven Segal from the Zoning Hearing Board. The Board thanked Mr. Segal for his service.

Res. 2020-91 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barret, the resignation of Steven Segal from the Zoning Hearing Board was unanimously accepted.

- Appointment of Michael Firth to the Zoning Hearing Board

Res. 2020-92 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Michael Firth, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Steven Segal for term ending December 31, 2023.

- Appointment of Zachary Zubris as Township Zoning Officer

Res. 2020-93 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Zachary Zubris as Solebury Township Zoning Officer.

- Appointment of Zachary Zubris as Code Enforcement Official

Res. 2020-94 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Zachary Zubris as Solebury Township Code Enforcement Official.

- Appointment of Nicole Slack as Assistant Code Enforcement Official

Res. 2020-95 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Nicole Slack as Solebury Township Assistant Code Enforcement Official.

- Historic Architectural Review Board – Change in Meeting Start Time
Mr. Baum Baicker announced that the Historic Architectural Review Board changed their meeting start times to 6:00 PM instead of 7:00 PM, starting immediately.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. Baum Baicker read a Statement of the Board of Supervisors on Police Procedures (copy of which is attached)
- Mr. Baum Baicker announced Solebury Township’s partnership with New Hope Borough and New Hope Solebury School to host a virtual screening of the film: *Walking While Black, L.O.V.E is the Answer*. The virtual screening to be held August 3, 2020.

VI. Public Comment – No Public Comment

VII. Public Hearings

HARB – Certificate of Appropriateness – Carversville Christian Church (41-002-053, 3736 Aquetong Road)

Upon a Motion by Marnie Newman, seconded by Scott Minnucci, it was unanimously agreed to recommend issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP # 41-002-053, 3736 Aquetong Road, per the submitted email dated May 31, 2020 and drawing R1.0, the existing sign will be repaired and amended to match the existing to make it two-sided, twice as thick and rotated 90 degrees. The stone base is to be reused and will be taller and thinner. The new metal posts will be slightly shorter than existing, with same material and thickness and topped with ball finials. The existing lighting will be replaced with a warm, 25-watt LED and the timer will be set from sunset to 11 p.m. everyday.

Res. 2020-96 Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP # 41-002-053, 3736 Aquetong Road as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board. Issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness does not relieve the applicant from obtaining any and all applicable permits prior to commencement of work.

VIII. Presentations

Drone Survey Presentation – Raritan Valley Community College

Jay F. Kelly, Ph. D., Center for Environmental Studies at Raritan Valley Community College presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy of which is attached) to the Board on the Proposal for Infrared Deer Surveys in Solebury Township. Highlights of the presentation include: Deer Population Trends in the Northeastern US; Reasons for Deer Population Growth; Comparison of Deer Survey Methods; Comparison of Sampling Design – Fixed Wing vs. sUAS; RVCC Infrared Drone Surveys; and Research Goals.

Public Comment utilizing Zoom’s Chat Feature:

- Barbara Zietchick, resident: Are there natural enemies that could be brought in?
- Kay Reiss, resident: As the deer population decreases and vegetations increases, don’t births increase?
- Helen Tai, resident: What is the rationale for surveying at night vs. day?

Deer Management Program Update – Nate Spence, USDA

Nate Spence, USDA Wildlife Technician, Carey A. Furlo, USDA Wildlife Biologist, and Jason Wood, USDA District Supervisor presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy of which is attached) to the Board on the Solebury Township Deer Management Program. Highlights of the presentation include: Role of USDA Management of Hunting Program; Property Enrollment; Property Enrollment Outreach and Solutions; Program Improvements; Components and Results of the 2019-2020 Hunting Season; USDA Targeted Deer Removal to Supplement Hunting Program; Discussion of Goals; 2021 Proposal for USDA Targeted Removal; and Cost Breakdown for USDA Targeted Removal.

Public Comment utilizing Zoom’s Chat Feature:

- Ms. Zietchick: We have seen “foreigners” with guns; we thought each hunter was assigned a particular area and would wear a tag with a number on it. We have seen non-numbered hunters.
- Ms. Tai: How many deer were taken through the program this last year vs. prior years?
- Joanne’s iPad: Many people walk the roads of Solebury for exercise etc. How safe are walkers from deer hunters I.e. how far from roads do hunters have to be?
- Mr. Francis: 164 were taken this year – 137 females, 27 males. Prior years there has been an increase in population from 2017.
- Ms. Tai: How many more deer do we need to take per year to get to our target goal?
- Mr. Francis: We currently are at a population of nearly 5,000 and 188 deer per square mile and the USDA sustainable target is 1664 and 63 per sq mile ultimately.
- Mr. Furlo: The focus of any hunting or deer removal program is reduction of associated damages. We don’t currently recommend a particular density to work towards. We look at measures decided upon by the property owner/managers to determine effectiveness.
- Mr. Furlo: With the number that Mr. Francis provided, 63/sq mile, it is possible to still have property damage at our goals determined by the township.
- Mr. Furlo: Thank you everyone.

Library Task Force Report

The Library Task Force presented their final report: The Free Library of New Hope & Solebury Funding and Oversight Issues (copy of which is attached) to the Board. Highlights of the presentation include: Executive Summary; Key Findings; Committee’s Process and Findings; History and Finances of the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury; Comparison with Libraries in Other Municipalities; Legal Analysis; and Conclusion.

Public Comment utilizing Zoom’s Chat Feature:

- Ms. Tai: Thank you to the committee for its findings. Are there any recommendations for how to proceed?
- Joanne’s iPad: Thanks very much to the Library Taskforce for all their hard work.
- Ms. Zietchick: The renovation was paid for without informing the Township of their plans.

IX. New Business

Fuel Bid Award

Bids for fuel have been received by the Bucks County Consortium and reviewed by Solebury Township Administration.

Res. 2020-97 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett it was unanimously agreed to award the bid for Premium Unleaded Gasoline and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel to Riggins, Inc.; and to award the bid for Propane to Suburban Propane, Inc. as reflected in their respective bids submitted to the Bucks County Consortium.

Ready for 100 Resolution

The Resolution (copy of which is attached) by the Board of Supervisors is in support of “Ready for 100” renewable energy movement.

Public Comment utilizing Zoom’s Chat Feature:

- Ms. Zietchick: Totally a dream; we are not doing away with renewable energy at the present time.
- Ms. Zietchick: China burns coal and has a great part of polluting the world. We are not in their class. Right now, we can certainly support the Sierra Club but not the end of fossil fuels.

Res. 2020-98 – Upon a motion by John S. Francis, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution in support of “Ready for 100” renewable energy movement and authorized the Administration to send a copy to: State Senator Steve Santarsiero; State Representative Wendi Thomas; Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf; U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick; and U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Patrick Toomey.

Zoning Hearing Board Applications

1. The applicants, Marco & Elizabeth, 6184 Honey Hollow Road, TMP No. 41-013-008-003, are requesting a variance from Section 27-2603.D2B to install a pool in rear yard setback.

Res. 2020-99 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board hearing on August 12, 2020 to oppose to application.

2. The applicant, Heritage Senior Living, LLC, Lower York Road, TMP Nos. 41-022-144-001, 41-022-144-002, and 41-022-153, is requesting the following variances from the Solebury Township Zoning Ordinance:

A variance from Section 27-2301.D(4) to permit the operation of the senior care facility on Lot 1 with 76 parking spaces whereas 239 spaces would otherwise be required.

A variance from Section 27-2205.1.B(3) (c) so as to permit the disturbance of approximately 2,500 square feet of Class III steep slopes.

A variance from the provisions of 27-2407.1.C(4) (c) so as to permit:

- Each tenant space to have wall signs on 2-sides of each building – the side facing Route 202 and side facing the internal parking lot; and
- For said wall signs to be a maximum area of 10% of the wall area of the respective individual tenant space, up to a maximum of 45 square feet, where a maximum of 32 square feet is otherwise permitted.

Res. 2020-100 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board hearing on August 12, 2020 to represent the interest of the Township.

Authorize Solicitor to Send Letter of Interest for TMP Nos. 41-022-135-001 & 41-022-137

The original motion was to authorize the Solicitor to send a letter of interest for TMP Nos. 41-022-135-001 and 41-022-137. The Township received the signed letter from the seller resulting in a change to the Motion.

Res. 2020-101 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to accept and approve the Letter of Intent received by the owner of TMP Nos. 41-022-135-001 and 41-022-137

Authorize Solicitor to Prepare Agreement of Sale and All Other Documents Associated with the Purchase of TMP Nos. 41-022-135-001 & 41-022-137

Res. 2020-102 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the agreement of sale and all documents associated with the purchase of TMP Nos. 41-022-135-001 and 41-022-137.

X. Public Comment – No Public Comment

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary



Published on *Solebury PA* (<https://www.soleburytwp.org>)

[Home](#) > Board of Supervisors Statement on Police Procedures

Board of Supervisors Statement on Police Procedures

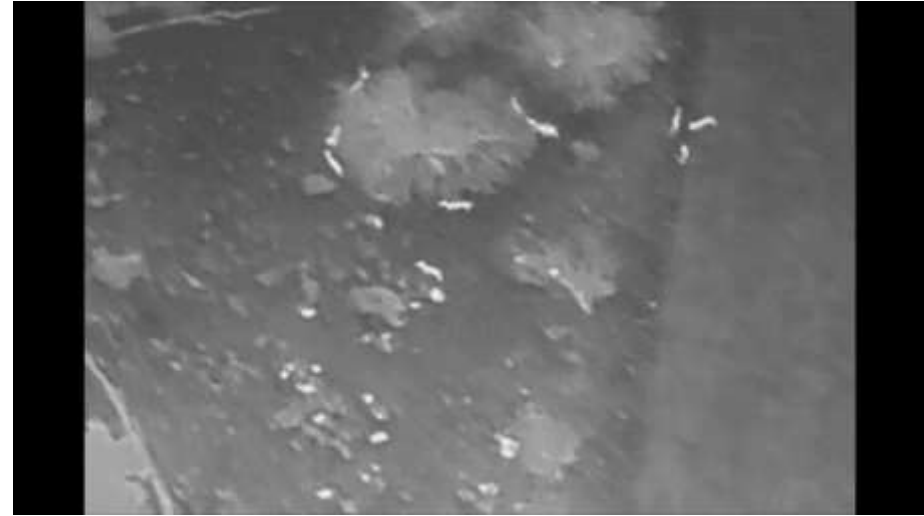
Each Solebury Supervisor has been reviewing the policies and procedures of the Solebury Police Department as well as the details of incident reports. While the review process is not yet complete, the Board of Supervisors feels that it is important to provide the following information:

- **Choke holds and similar actions** — Since December of 2014, the Solebury Police Department has banned the use of “neck restraint control techniques,” which includes choke holds. Since very recently there has been a national emphasis on choke holds, Solebury’s police chief has further updated the department’s directive to specifically add the term “choke holds” as a prohibited police action.
- **Special Department Accreditation** — The Solebury Police Department carries special accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This accreditation has only been awarded to about 10% of the police departments in Pennsylvania. None of the police departments for our surrounding communities carry this accreditation, which includes in its rules of community engagement procedures addressing de-escalation of stressful situations and sensitivity training. This training also includes cultural/ ethnic bias awareness. The Department is audited every 3 years to assure ongoing compliance.
- **Discharge of a weapon** — There has not been an on-duty discharge of a weapon by a member of the Solebury Police Department other than a “mercy” shooting of a critically injured animal or a shooting of a rabid animal in at least 14 years, the entire tenure of the current Solebury police chief.
- **Cameras** — All Solebury Police Department vehicles are outfitted with cameras. We are in the process of assessing the cost and benefits of bodycams for all officers.
- **Staffing and Budgetary issues** — The Board of Supervisors has reviewed with our police chief overall staffing and budgetary issues each September. These police budgetary and staffing meetings are open and advertised to the public as part of Solebury Township’s budget process.
- **Updating of Policies and Procedures** — Chief Bellizzie has expressed complete agreement with the Board that to the extent any changes in policies or procedures are deemed to be appropriate, they will be implemented.
- **Citizens Committee** — A proposal has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors that a citizens committee be established by the Township to review the role and funding of Solebury’s police department. Given all that is outlined above, there are no plans to appoint a citizens committee to review the role and funding of the police in Solebury at this time. To the extent that new information becomes available to the Board or the situation otherwise changes, appropriate action will be taken. The Board always encourages residents to make suggestions or present proposals at its public meetings.

Source URL: <https://www.soleburytwp.org/home/news/board-supervisors-statement-police-procedures>



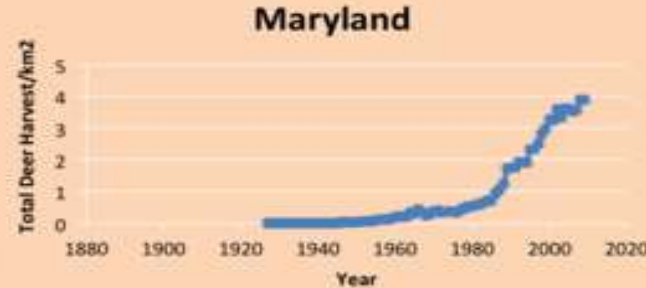
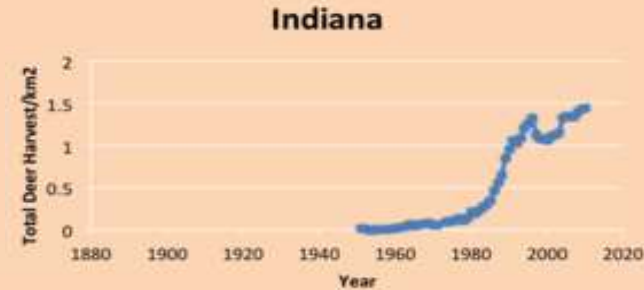
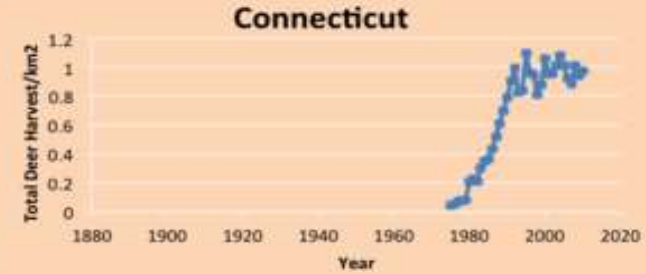
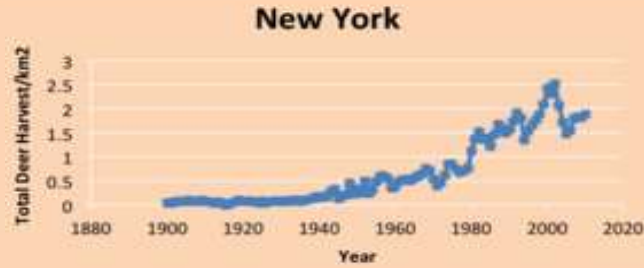
Proposal for Infrared Deer Surveys in Solebury Township, PA



Solebury Township Board of Supervisors Meeting
July 21, 2020

Jay F. Kelly, Ph.D.
Center for Environmental Studies
Raritan Valley Community College

Deer Population Trends in the Northeastern US



Reasons for Deer Population Growth

1. Extermination of Predators
2. Cessation of Commercial Hunting
3. Warming Winters
4. Suburban Development

Infographic by
Peter Smallidge, Berndt Blossey
Cornell University



Comparison of Deer Survey Methods

Census – *Total Population Counts, Complete Spatial Coverage*

Sampling – *Partial Counts/Coverage + Statistical Estimates*

Survey Methods:

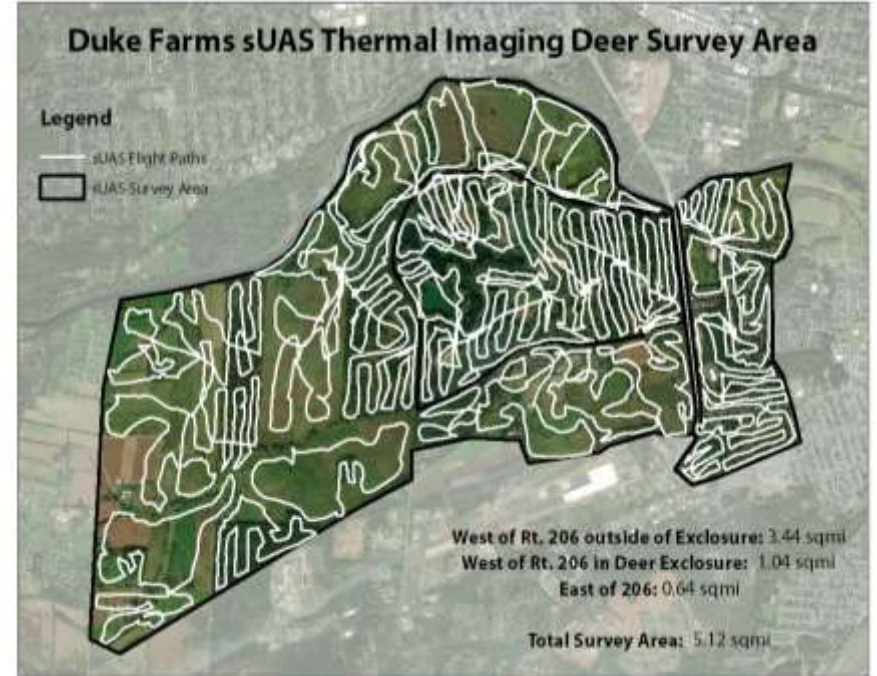
- **Aerial Surveys** (Helicopter) – $\leq 80\%$ accurate, \$\$\$
- **Infrared Aerial Surveys** (Fixed-wing Aircraft) – $\leq 90\%$, \$\$\$
- **Infrared sUAS Surveys** (Drone) – 95-100% accurate, \$-\$\$
- **Spotlight Surveys** – 31-88% accurate, highly variable, \$
- **Fecal Pellet Counts** – high variability, temperature dependent, \$
- **Trail Cameras** – high variability, error/double-counting, \$\$

Comparison of Sampling Design – Fixed Wing vs. sUAS

Watchung Borough (Vision Air Research 2017)



Duke Farms (RVCC 2020)



Infrared Fixed Wing vs. sUAS Results



https://youtu.be/2H_JUae06ho

Duke Farms 2020	Duke Boundaries			Overall Search Area		
	# Deer – Aircraft	# Deer – Drone	% Dif.	# Deer – Aircraft	# Deer – Drone	% Dif.
Outside Exclosure (West of Rt. 206)	157	167	6%	184	191	4%
Inside Exclosure	20	27	35%	20	27	35%
Outside Exclosure (East of Rt. 206)	14	17	21%	44	58	32%
TOTAL	191	211	10%	248	276	11%



sUAS sample videos



Start @ 2:45

https://youtu.be/2H_JUae06ho

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuvLzk8WXKI>

Spotlight Surveys



Sources of Error:

Weather Conditions

Seasonal Behavior Changes

Observer Effects

Vegetation – Leafing Out

Vehicle Height

Sensitivity to Area/Distance Estimates

Violation of Randomness Assumptions^{DS}

← Plot-Based Sampling

← Distance Sampling

Location	Year	Density	Range	% Error
Watchung	2019	61±15	(47-76)	25%
	2018	41±12	(29-53)	29%
Raritan	2019	112±13	(99-124)	12%
	2018	81±13	(68-95)	16%
Readington	2019	132±39	(93-170)	30%
Princeton	2015	36±11	(27-48)	31%
(deNicola	2014	45±17	(31-65)	38%
Unpubl.data)	2011	39±27	(20-74)	69%

Average = 31% Error!!!

RVCC Infrared Drone Surveys

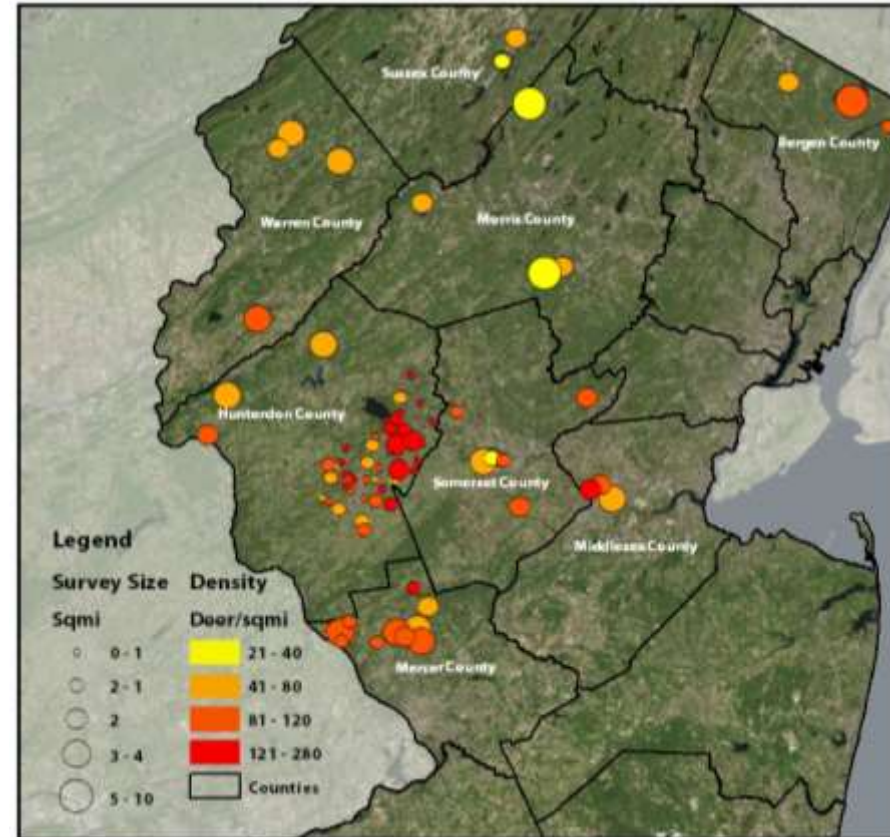
- FAA Certified Pilots (2), Night Waiver
- VOs Trained for Night-Time Operations
- Scientific Training - Ph.D. Ecology (Rutgers), 24 yrs exp.
- 501(c)3 – Fully Insured
- DJI Inspire Drone/ZenMuse Infrared Sensor
- Survey Window – Late November – April
- Class G Airspace (0 - 400' AGL)
- 2-5 mi²/night





2019-2020 RVCC sUAS Deer Surveys

- 79 preserves/municipalities
- 18 public partners
- 8 Counties (+3 soon...)
- 102.2 mi² (65,408 acres)
- Average density: 80 deer/mi²
 - Above Rt. 78 – 70 deer/mi²
 - Below Rt. 78 – 112 deer/mi²



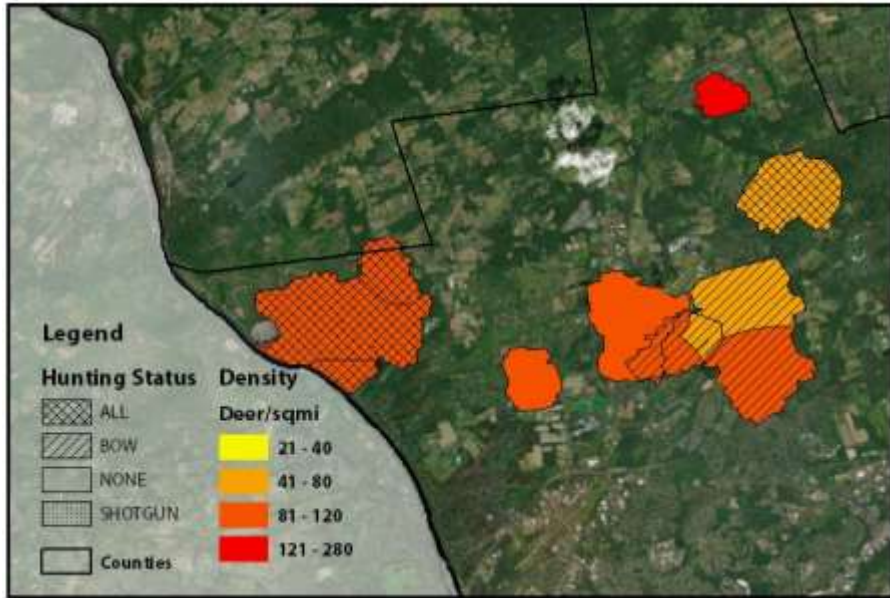


Research Goals

- Regional Patterns of Deer Densities
 - Urban to Rural Gradient
- Comparison of Methods
 - sUAS vs. Infrared Aerial vs. Spotlight
- Assessing Deer Management Strategies
 - No hunting vs. Bow Only vs. Full Season vs. Intensive Mgmt.
- Effects of Land Use/Fragmentation
 - Suburban vs. Forested vs. Urban vs. Agricultural + edge/patch size
- Relationship to Vehicle Collisions and Forest Health

Mercer County Parks (RVCC 2020)

9 Preserves/Municipalities



Location	Area (mi ²)	Deer Density	Hunting Status
Fiddler's Creek Preserve	0.58	98	HUNTING
Mt Rose Preserve	1.85	68	HUNTING
Pleasant Valley Open Space	0.94	101	HUNTING
Pole Farm	2.13	81	BOW ONLY
Rosedale	2.28	67	BOW ONLY
Curlis Lake Woods	1.35	87	BOW ONLY
Woolsey Park – Hopewell	0.89	102	NO HUNTING
Pennington Borough	2.3	106	NO HUNTING
Hopewell Borough Park	0.52	125	NO HUNTING

Average Deer Density

Overall:

93 ± 6 deer/mi²

Hunting:

89 ± 11 deer/mi²

Bow Only:

78 ± 6 deer/mi²

No Hunting:

111 ± 7 deer/mi²

Harvest Results: 0.07 deer/acre

0.11 deer/acre



Deer Population Benchmarks – Scientific Literature

>10 deer/mi²

Impacts to preferred
browse species

>20 deer/mi²

Impacts to forest
understories, wildlife

>100 deer/mi²

Without deer
management

(Drake et al. 2002, Almendinger et al. 2020)

Historic: **8-11 deer/mi²**



Healthy forest with dense understory
vegetation and native plant species.

Present: **80 deer/mi²**



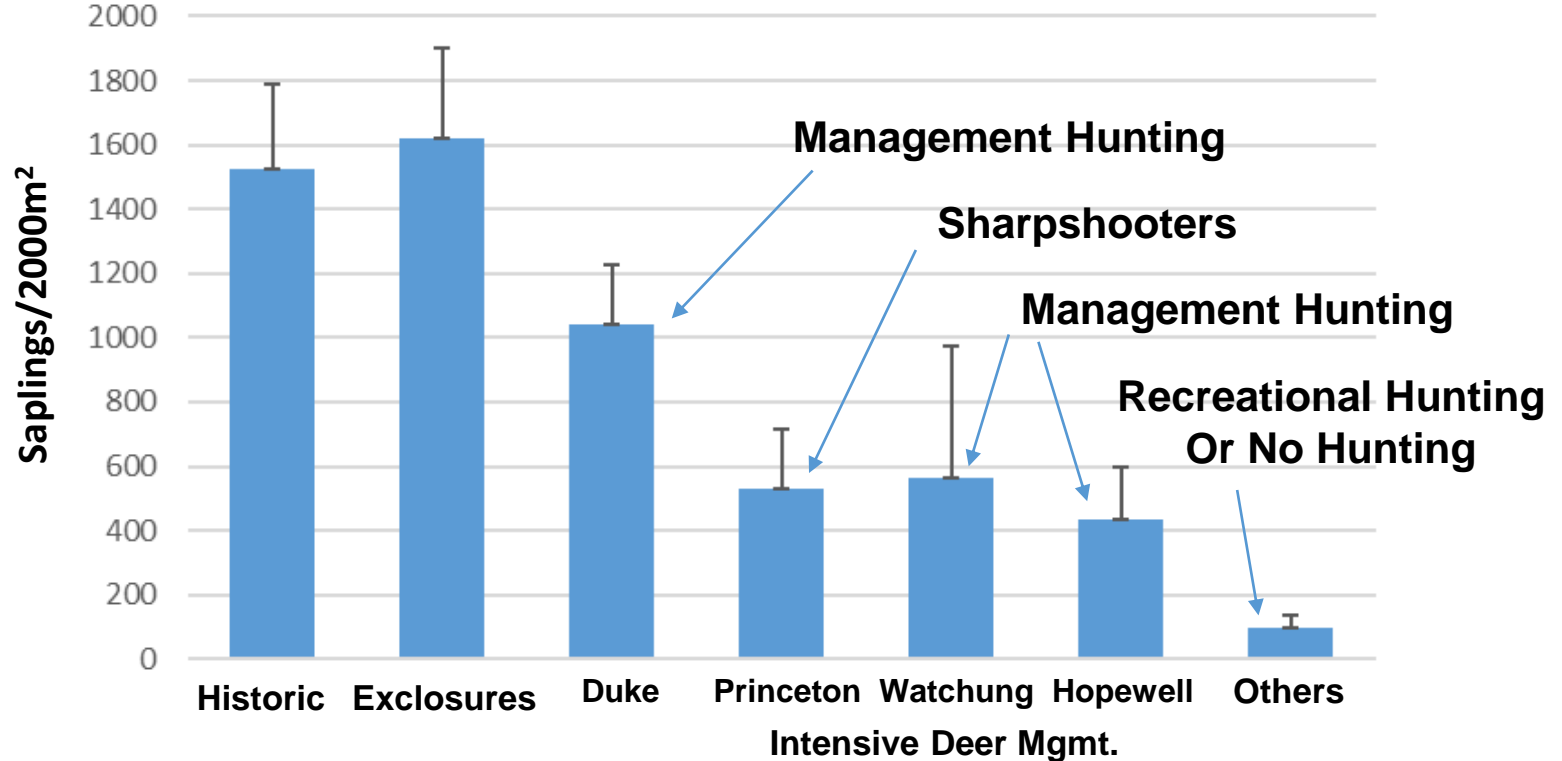
Overbrowsed forest at Hutcheson
Memorial Forest in Franklin Township
(2012)



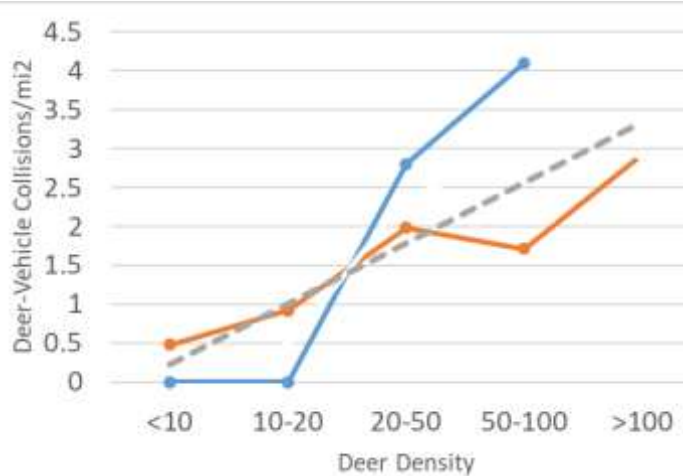
Overbrowsed forest with invasive
barberry shrubs at Peter's Tract in
Bernardsville (2016)



Effects of Deer Management on Forest Health - Sapling Densities



Relationship of Deer Densities to Deer-Vehicle Collisions



Deer Collision and Road Based Spotlight Survey Density in Raritan Township

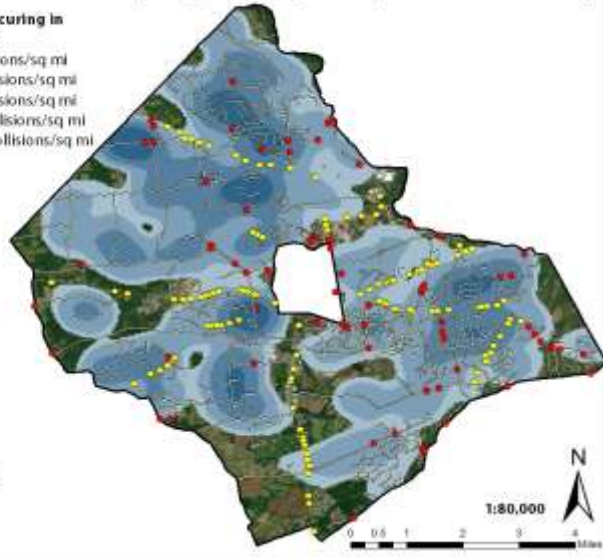
Deer Collision Density Occuring in Each Deer Density Range
 1-10 deer/sq mi: 1.14 collisions/sq mi
 10-20 deer/sq mi: 3.54 collisions/sq mi
 20-50 deer/sq mi: 5.24 collisions/sq mi
 50-100 deer/sq mi: 5.12 collisions/sq mi
 100-186 deer/sq mi: 3.39 collisions/sq mi

note that all deer collisions are included in this summary

Legend
 Density Calculated from Road Survey Observations

- 1 - 10
- 10-20
- 20-40
- 40-100
- 100-186

- Deer Collisions**
- occurring on survey roads
 - not occurring on survey roads
 - Roads Surveyed
 - Township Boundary



River Vale sUAS Heat Map



Landscape Factors – *Land Use Contexts* & Fragmentation

Forested



Agricultural



Urban-Suburban



Rural Residential



Thanks!!!

Contact:

Dr. Jay F. Kelly
Co-Director, Center for
Environmental Studies

Professor of Biology &
Environmental Science
Raritan Valley Comm.
College

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<https://www.raritanval.edu/Environmental-Studies>

Acknowledgements:

RVCC Center for Environmental Studies - Jessica Ray
RVCC Foundation; Mercer County Parks – Jenn Rogers;
FoHVOS – Mike Van Clef; Readington, Raritan, River Vale, and
Hopewell Townships; Watchung, Highland Park and Pennington Boroughs; Rutgers U.;
Middlesex County Parks; Closter Nature Center, Fyke Nature Association; New Jersey
Conservation Foundation; Steward Green – Gene Huffington

2020 White-tailed Deer Management Update

Solebury Township, Pennsylvania



Nate Spence | USDA Wildlife Services

Role of USDA Management of Hunting Program

➤ Communication

- Pennsylvania Game Commission (acquisition and distribution of management tags in accordance with state laws)
- Property Owners (have an outlet for information and a liaison to protect their exposure)
- Hunters (have an outlet for rules and regulation information and a representative providing tags in accordance with program goals)
- Township Officials & Local Law Enforcement
- Local Game Processors

➤ Verification

- Information within the program pertaining to property, individuals enrolled and their harvest information

➤ Safety Implementation

- Establishing safety and accountability standards for managed hunters

➤ Motivation

- Recruiting new property enrollment for the program and keeping hunters inspired to achieve program goals

Property Enrollment

- **Properties can enroll with preferred individuals currently hunting their property that can obtain management tags offered by the program.**
- **Properties can request assistance from hunters through the Township's hunting program.**
 - Each hunter enrolled is expected to participate fully in the harvest reporting aspect of the program. Failure to report harvest information will result in those individuals losing their opportunity to obtain tags in the future.
 - Property owners that wish to enroll but need hunters will be provided those individuals by the program manager. Hunters that are managed by the program must meet all the requirements to participate.
 - A property that wishes to participate in the deer management program must accurately complete the enrollment form specific to how they wish to participate to clarify to the program manager how that property is to be managed.



Solebury Township Deer Management Program
2020 Property Enrollment Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

*If you currently have hunter(s) on your property please enroll with 'Private Hunter(s)' option and list their information.

*If you do not have hunter(s) enroll with 'Program Provided Hunter(s)' option and hunter(s) will be provided to you.

Enrollment Options: Private Hunter(s) Program Provided Hunter(s)

**** All hunters enrolled in the program will be expected to communicate harvest information with the program manager. ****

Private Hunter Information (required):

Name	Address	Email	Phone	PA Hunting License (CID) #

Archery Firearms Both as approved methods of hunting on your property within legal safety zone restrictions (i.e., an archery hunter must be at least 50 yards from a building unless waived by the Property Owner, 150 yards applies for firearms).

Check the box if willing to participate in the **Red Tag Program, Feb-Sept**. Properties with agriculture or adjacent qualify.

The regular hunting season takes place from mid-September through the end of January during archery and firearms seasons.

Signature _____ Date _____

**** Please return form to P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963 or email a copy to nathan.e.spence@usda.gov ****

Program literature and the 2020 Enrollment Form was mailed to all properties formerly in the program in January 2020.

Goals:

- Clarify components of the hunting season to property owners
 - Describe safety zone restrictions pertaining to property eligibility
 - Clean up inconsistencies of hunter information
 - Give property owners the chance to make an adjustment regarding who hunts their property if they felt harvests were inadequate
 - Have 100% of the properties enrolled supported by paperwork to verify their enrollment information compared to 41% prior to USDA management.
- This application will be an annual event to keep accurate information on file for properties and the hunters enrolled through the process.
- Those properties that failed to re-enroll for various reasons cannot have their hunters take advantage of management tags provided by the program.

Property Enrollment Outreach

- 193 recruitment properties were targeted using satellite imagery and deer observations by the program manager
- Updated Township website with current program information and wrote an article for the Township e-news letter
- Interviewed with Bucks County Herald in respect to deer issues and the need for new property enrollment
- Local public outlet contact regarding deer management in Solebury Township
 - Penn State Extension Office, Doylestown
 - Bucks County Audubon Society
 - Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
 - Solebury Township Farm Committee
- Program flyer distribution to local community boards with focus on edible meat donations
- Engaging with Solebury residents while out in public



Note: USDA Wildlife Services code of ethics prohibits cold calling and knocking on doors while representing federal government

Property Enrollment Challenges

- Property is for sale and owners do not want hunter interference
- Owners are concerned with safety of children, pets or farm animals on property
- Owners use the home sparingly and do not want people on property while not there
- Hunting groups pay money to lease land to hunt
- Farms have their own management program in place with Game Commission (Red Tag)
- Owners have had bad experiences with hunters in the past or have heard stories through neighbors
- Former program management experiences have property owners and hunters upset
- Property owners are turned off by forms of government encroachment (i.e. code enforcement)
- Land is contractually in preservation with restrictions on hunting
- COVID-19, nationwide mental health and crime concerns among residents

Property Enrollment Solutions

➤ **Creating a New Image for Hunters and the Program**

- Focus on harvest donation to processors for local edible meat donations (track amount through program)
- Adopt-A-Highway Program (adopted 2.1 miles in Solebury Township)
- Use Pennsylvania Game Commission Cooperative Program to provide tree planting service to properties
- Volunteering for other community events (EAC guidance)

➤ **Potential Township Assistance**

- Use land preservation contracts to benefit the hunting program
- Create a lease program or incentivize owners with a tax credit when property is managed by the program
- Offering targeted deer removal following the hunting season to properties enrolled

Program Improvements

➤ **Requirements for Hunters Managed by the Program**

- Hunter-Trapper Education and Bowhunter Education verification
- Hold Harmless Agreement
- Archery Proficiency Test
- Hunters are directed to target an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer or have logged at least 40 hours of hunting prior to
- Goal is to enroll hunters that meet the requirements and put focus on the harvest of antlerless deer to achieve program goals

➤ **All harvests are recorded in a manner to verify each harvest with a tag number**

- This includes all segments of the hunting season (Red Tag Program, Regular Hunting Season/DMAP)
- Allows for more complete comparison year-to-year what hunters in the program are actually achieving and keeps them honest in reporting
- Provides more detailed division of antlered vs. antlerless deer harvested during a season

Components and Results of the 2019-2020 Hunting Season

Red Tag Program

February – September

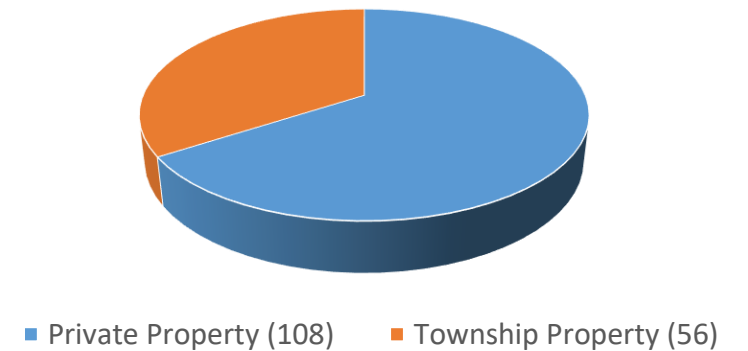
Regular Hunting Season & DMAP

September – January

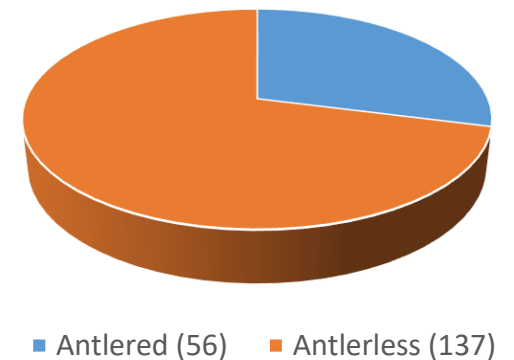
170 Hunters Enrolled

Red Tag Program	Regular Hunting & DMAP	Total Verified Harvests	Un-verified Harvest Reports	Unofficial Total Harvests
65	99	164	31	195

Verified Harvest Breakdown



Antlered vs. Anterless Harvests



USDA Targeted Deer Removal to Supplement Hunting Program

➤ Sport-Hunting vs. Targeted Deer Removal

- Use of specialized equipment and permits produce higher volume of deer harvests
- Hunting will remain an element of support to targeted removal to maintain acceptable deer related damage
- Hunting program is required to be maintained to obtain removal permits through PA Game Commission



Discussion of Goals

Targeted deer removal is only effective if attainable goals are set and maintained

- Consider removal costs an element of road maintenance and public safety (i.e. deer-vehicle incidents)
- Agricultural input from local farming community on yield impacts
- Bird Town needs help to maintain that status due to browse of forest understory
- Feeding local families in need (2019-20 USDA WS donated 30,496 lbs of venison)
- Continue to offer local sport-hunting opportunities



2021 Proposal for USDA Targeted Removal

➤ Timing

- February 1 – April 30
- Placates to all stakeholders, after hunting season but before fawning cycle
- Timing coincides with Pennsylvania Game Commission deer control permit regulations

➤ Removal Sites

- Township owned properties and private properties enrolled in the hunting program upon request
- Properties not enrolled in the hunting program may request but need to show hunting has taken place
- Removal site will be pre-baited by hunting program manager prior to USDA targeted removal

2021 Proposal for USDA Targeted Removal

➤ **Current Agreement with USDA Wildlife Services**

- Wildlife Technician, Nate Spence, manages the hunting program and conducts two roving surveys each year
- Position is funded 50% by agreement with Solebury Township

➤ **New Agreement with USDA Wildlife Services**

- Fully funds WT Spence for 2021
- Manage hunting program, conduct surveys and coordinate deer removal operations
- Maintain public relations regarding deer management in Solebury Township

Cost Breakdown for USDA Targeted Removal

Line Item	CSA Amount
Personnel	\$130,735.38
Vehicle Use	\$7,560.00
Supplies/Equipment	\$5,575.00
Lodging/Per Diem	\$10,926.00
Pooled Job Costs	\$17,027.60
Indirect Costs	\$24,999.62
Total	\$196,823.60

- Goal is to remove 500-700 deer each year for 2-3 years based upon deer related damage assessment
- Monitoring of deer population continues with USDA roving surveys and continuation of the hunting program
- Smaller, subsequent targeted removal may be needed if sport-hunting cannot maintain deer damage goals
- This outline budgets for 24 total nights of removal **(2 nights per week, February-April)**
- WS removal operations average 25 deer per night **(24 nights x 25 deer = 600 deer)**

Cost Breakdown for USDA Targeted Removal

➤ Processing

- Costs and logistics of processing to be handled by the Township with WT Spence guidance
- Proposed to avoid USDA overhead costs on top of processing cost
- Average processing cost per deer is around \$80 (**$\$80 \times 600 \text{ deer} = \$48,000$**)
- Organizations like Hunters Sharing the Harvest can provide financial assistance to processing costs
- If HSH agrees to pay \$50 toward processing, costs are significantly less (**$\$30 \times 600 \text{ deer} = \$18,000$**)
- A processing agreement where USDA WS does not have to field dress deer allows more time to shoot
- More time to shoot results in fewer nights of removal and reduced costs to reach our goal



**Thank you for
your time!**

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT:
THE FREE LIBRARY OF NEW HOPE & SOLEBURY
FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT ISSUES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Noel Barrett, Solebury Supervisor
Robert McEwan, Solebury Supervisor
Dennis Mankin, Solebury Resident
Kay Reiss, Solebury Resident
CL Lindsay, Solebury Resident

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given that the Township of Solebury has provided significant financial support to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury (hereinafter the FLNHS)—\$120,000 in both 2019 and 2020 with an ask of \$170,000 for both years—this committee was tasked with examining the contours of the relationship between the two entities. Our goals were to define the legalities and obligations under the current relationship, and to examine what other funding models are available.

This committee was formed after a Supervisor sponsored forum designed to obtain community input on the requested funding increase. The Forum was well attended by Solebury residents who strongly voiced their support of the library.

A key tenet of this committee’s work rested on the assumption that in order for Solebury to continue to annually invest such a large sum in a local non-government entity, higher levels of accountability and oversight would be required.

KEY FINDINGS

1. The FLNHS has repeatedly stated that Solebury's per capita funding levels are lower than those of the surrounding townships (the FLNHS cites the fact that Solebury contributes \$14.60 per capita while other townships contribute an average of \$25.96 per capita to local libraries) as justification for an increased contribution. This comparison is misleading. The committee surveyed nearby libraries. Yes, many municipalities do fund their local libraries at a higher rate than Solebury does, however in all but one of those instances the libraries being funded were, in varying degrees, owned and operated by the townships themselves. In other words, the comparison of the per capita rate shows that municipalities that have incorporated their libraries into the local government in one form or another provide a higher per capita rate as compared to Solebury.
2. The FLNHS is somewhat atypical in that it receives funding from both the Borough of New Hope and the Township of Solebury. There is currently no written agreement between the Borough, the Township and FLNHS formalizing the funding arrangements. The Pennsylvania statutes do not require an agreement in situations where two or more municipalities simply financially support a library. In instances where multiple municipalities own and operate a library together, an agreement is required.
3. Both the state statutes about municipal funding of local libraries and the FLNHS's own bylaws tie financial support to the Township's ability to appoint members to the FLNHS's Board of Directors. But this is not an effective way for the Township to exert oversight on the FLNHS. Because once appointed to the Library's Board, by law, those Board members are beholden to act in the best interest of the Library, not the Township.
4. The current funding model, that of an unrestricted donation to the FLNHS, does not offer the Township of Solebury any level of control or oversight over how effectively the Library is serving the community.

5. The Pennsylvania Laws that govern municipal support of libraries offer a number of other potential funding models, all of which would give the Township more oversight of the FLNHS's budget. To that end, it is the opinion of this committee that the Township should consider shifting its relationship with the FLNHS. In the short term this could take the form of a "contract for services" arrangement. In the longer term the Township should explore converting the FLNHS to some level of municipal ownership.

COMMITTEE'S PROCESS AND FINDINGS

The FLNHS is an independent non-profit institution which Solebury Township has long supported financially. That support has grown steadily over the years, doubling in the last few years to the current level of \$120,000. The FLNHS has for the last two years requested an increase in funding to \$170,000.

This committee was formed by the Solebury Board of Supervisors in March following the results of a questionnaire and a community forum both held to help them determine the proper level of funding for the FLNHS. One of the issues raised during this dialogue is that of oversight of taxpayer funds to the FLNHS when there is no direct involvement in or oversight of the management and structure of the library.

To that end, the Committee:

- researched the history of the Township's financial contributions to the Library, and how it has affected programming and operations of the Library;
- evaluated how other municipal library institutions are organized and operated (including funding levels and sources);
- considered the funding options allowed under Pennsylvania laws governing libraries and compare those to the current structure of the library.

With this information it has provided options for the operating structure of the Library and addressed several questions posed by the Solebury Supervisors. Each of the topics addressed are described in brief in the following section. A detailed discussion of each is found in the corresponding appendices, which should be read in detail for the fullest understanding of our findings.

HISTORY AND FINANCES OF THE FLNHS

The FLNHS is financially sound. It currently has an unrestricted endowment of around \$1 million and it owns its building. Its own audit lists the FLNHS's net worth at around \$2 million. Its operating budget has remained fairly constant over the last few years, and it has always been able to meet that budget through a combination of municipal and state contributions, grants, fines and fundraising. It has ended each of the last two years with a surplus.

The most significant finding of our review of the FLNHS's finances is the change in the mix of income to meet its operating expenses. Since 2018 the percentage of the budget paid by government funds has grown from 57% to 71%, while the share paid for by FLNHS Board's fundraising efforts has fallen proportionately, from 32% to 20%. If Solebury had provided the additional \$50,000 per year for the next 3 to 5 years as requested, government sources would be paying 90% of the Library's operating expenses and fundraising only 5% for those 3 to 5 years.

At no point, during their requests for funding or in our many conversations with its leadership, did the FLNHS establish that increased funding would allow additional services, or that it would prevent cuts in the current level of services. A Library representative acknowledged to the committee that the sole purpose for seeking additional money was to allow the FLNHS Board to use their fundraising proceeds to build their endowment. The rationale for this is that the FLNHS could then use the additional income generated by the larger endowment to give them greater independence from municipal funding. It's important to note that, even with a much larger endowment, the FLNHS would still expect the Township to maintain its annual funding of \$120,000.

A detailed analysis is found at Appendix A.

COMPARISON WITH LIBRARIES IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

The Library has repeatedly compared the municipal funding provided by Solebury to that given by other municipalities to libraries located in their jurisdictions and pointed to the disparities in funding levels to justify their requested funding increase. Through conversations with the leadership in other townships and reviews of the municipal budgets, the Committee looked at five other libraries in Bucks County to see if there were any factors which could explain the differences in funding levels. It found one important distinction—in all but one instance, the libraries are incorporated into the township government. And even in that one case where the library remains nominally independent, the township both owns the library building and exerts considerable oversight over the Library budget . To the committee this is telling, for where such large amounts of tax dollars are spent, the municipalities own the assets and directly control the budgets of the libraries. The FLNHS, by contrast, is completely independent, owns and controls all its assets, and does not present its proposed operating budget to the Solebury Supervisors.

A detailed description of the discussions held with officials in other libraries is at Appendix B. A summary of the findings of this research is provided on the next page.

Library	Structure	Board	Budget/ Municipal Contribution	Tax Type	Fundraising
Northampton	Township Department	Advisory Board Appointed by Board of Supervisors	\$1,033,500/ \$986,000	Dedicated millage	\$25,000
Upper South-hampton	Independent but Board of Supervisors approves budget	Operating board appointed by Board of Supervisors	\$680,000/ \$588,000	Dedicated millage	\$550,000 capital campaign
Lower South-hampton	Independent but budget is part of township budget, approved by Board of Supervisors; employee's benefits through township	Appointed by Board of Supervisors	\$740,000/ \$640,000	General fund transfer	\$45,000
Morrisville	Township department	Advisory Board Appointed by Board of Supervisors	\$242,000/ \$178,000	Dedicated millage	None
Warminster	Township department	Advisory Board Appointed by Board of Supervisors	\$855,646/ \$631,447	Dedicated millage	\$3,000

LEGAL ANALYSIS

No Agreement is Legally Required Between New Hope & Solebury

There is no legal requirement that there be an agreement between the Borough of New Hope, Solebury Township and the FLNHS formalizing the current shared funding model. The only place where the Pennsylvania Statutes discuss any kind of joint funding for libraries is in 24 PA.C.S. §9320. There they require an agreement only in instances where municipalities “unite in establishing and maintaining a local library.” That is not the case here, where two municipalities simply provide funding to an independent, private non-profit. From the Statutes’ silence on such a funding model, we can infer that there is no legal requirement for an agreement. This is reflected in the practices of a similar situation in Chester County, PA. The Kennett library serves, and receives financial support from, eight different municipalities and there is no formal agreement between any of the entities involved.

Municipal Appointee

The Pennsylvania Statutes and the bylaws of the FLNHS both state that, under the current funding model, the Township has the right, but not an obligation, to appoint members of the FLNHS Board of directors. 24 PA.C.S. §9318 at section (1)(ii) states that “If two or more municipalities contribute to the establishment of, maintenance of and aid to a local library, the municipalities may appoint a maximum of nine members to serve on the board as they mutually agree.” Later in the same statute at section (3) the law stipulates that “[t]he municipal officers of a municipality shall not appoint more than two members of the local library board if the municipality maintains or aids a local library that was established prior to June 14, 1961.” Since the FLNHS was founded prior to 1961, that section applies.

Notice the use of the word “may” rather than shall” in section (1)—meaning the Township could chose to appoint a “mutually agreed” upon number of members to the FLNHS, but per section (3) that number shall be no more than 2 FLNHS board members.

This is also reflected in the FLNHS's own bylaws, which state "municipal officers of each municipality aiding the maintenance of the Library (the "Municipal Officers") may appoint a maximum of two qualified Trustees (the "Municipal Appointments") as openings are created on the Board ...". This section of the bylaws was changed by the FLNHS at their March 2020 meeting. The previous version used the word "shall", creating an obligation on the part of the Township. This new version also added the term "qualified" which is problematic. It's unclear which entity—the municipality or the FLNHS—gets to decide whether or not someone is qualified. If it is the FLNHS that gets to make the final call on qualifications, then the Township's ability to appoint someone of its choosing to the FLNHS Board is essentially nullified.

Even assuming that the Township does have the ability to appoint any candidate of its choosing to the FLNHS Board, such an appointment doesn't give the Township any real oversight or ability to hold the FLNHS financially accountable for the way it spends the Township's donated funds. This is because once a municipal appointee takes a seat on the FLNHS Board they are, by law, required to act in the interest of the FLNHS, not the Township. The Pennsylvania Statutes regarding the duty of a non-profit board member at 15 PA.C.S. § 5712 states that they must act "in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation".

Exclusive Control of Funds

In addition, 20 PA.C.S. § 9318 states that "[a]ny money appropriated for the establishment or maintenance of a local library and all moneys, if any, received from other sources for the use of the library shall be under the exclusive control of and disbursed under the direction of the board." This means that, once funds are given to the FLNHS by the Township, decisions about how to spend those funds are entirely up to the library's board of directors—not the Township.

Reporting Requirements Under the Current Funding Model

20 PA.C.S. § 9318 requires that libraries which receive funds from a municipality, annually provide that municipality with an accounting of how the municipal support was used by the Library and a detail of the libraries collection, use rates and buildings. It also requires that the report contains records of “Any moneys received by the library from the municipality, “Any disbursements of moneys received by the library from the municipality”, and “The accounts of the treasurer of the board, which shall be audited in the same manner as other municipal expenditures.” Although the FLNHS provides budget information and some information about its programming to the Township, it is not in compliance with the reporting requirements laid out in the statutes.

Other Potential Funding Structures

Because the current funding model offers little or no oversight, even with a municipally appointed member serving on the FLNHS Board, the Township should strongly consider changing to another method allowed under Pennsylvania Law. The potential alternate funding models are:

1. Dedicated Levied Library Tax

A municipality can, via majority vote determined at a special election, levy a (minimum 1 1/2 mil) tax specifically for a local library. But the way the statute is written, it seems that the passage and collection of a library tax is meant as a tool for the creation of a municipally controlled library, rather than as a means to support a separate entity such as the FLNHS. Most significantly, the statutes state that after the levy is approved by the voters the township must “Appoint a board of library directors to have exclusive control of the library and library tax revenue as provided in section 9318 (relating to local library governance).” There are some conflicting clauses in the statute as written, and some of the ramifications of instituting a levied tax are unclear. But it is safe to say that, if a specific tax is collected, Solebury will be required by law to take much more direct control of the FLNHS.

2. Contract for Library Services

There is an exception to the “levied library tax = municipal control” formula discussed above. The Pennsylvania Statutes allow a municipality to “contract with the managers or owners of an existing local library for public library service to the residents of the municipality, whether the library is located in the same or another municipality.”

The payment to the library can be funded out of general tax funds or from a special library tax. If the contract is funded from a special library tax, all of the proceeds of the tax must be used for the maintenance and aid of the library.

Entering into a service contract with the FLNHS may offer the Township an attractive combination of flexibility and the ability to ensure some level of real-time accountability, while also offering the FLNHS a predictable fiscal relationship with the Township.

3. Municipally Operated & Owned Library

Finally a township may operate a library itself, owning the real estate and resources and employing the staff directly. There are restrictions about creating competing libraries. The Statutes state that “no new library may be established under the provisions of this chapter in any municipality where there is a local library which: (i) is open to the use of all the residents of the municipality; and (ii) meets the minimum standards recommended by the State Librarian as conditions for participation in State aid.” This means that the establishment of a Township operated library would involve a coordinated effort and hand-off between the Township and the FLNHS (and quite possibly the Borough of New Hope).

A more thorough discussion is included as Appendix 3.

CONCLUSION

Based on our research the committees finds:

1. The current funding model of the Library although viable, is disproportionately supported by state and municipal funding (71% under the current donations and 90% if the additional \$50,000 a year were donated). This proportion is high given the fact that the funds are made as an unrestricted donation. It is also noted that the Township has not requested information from FLNHS on how the funds are utilized in order to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent responsibly.
2. The comparison with municipal funding levels in other townships is misleading, since it overlooks the differences in governing structures. In reviewing the funding levels it became clear that the greater the taxpayer funding levels, the more control the municipal authorities had. In most cases the libraries in those other municipalities are part of the Township, which owns the assets and controls the budget. The norm appears to be a continuum whereby the more taxpayer money is provided, the more municipal control is exerted, consistent with the governing authority's fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to ensure tax dollars are used appropriately.
3. As taxpayer funding has grown, the supervisor's fiduciary duty may require additional oversight and control of the operations of the Library. Absorbing the library into the municipal government seems to be the norm at the levels of funding that the Borough of New Hope and the Township of Solebury currently provide to the FLNHS.
4. Although both the law and the Library's by-laws provide for the appointment by the Township of two members to the Library Board, such an appointment does not provide effective oversight and control, since once appointed, the appointed member's fiduciary duty would be to the Library, not the Township. And once funds are appropriated to a library, that entity alone controls how they are spent.
5. The Pennsylvania Statutes provides for more direct municipal governance, concurrent with more taxpayer funding. The statutes also allow (at least under the dedicated library tax provision) for the possibility of a municipality contracting for Library services with an existing library. Although we could find no example among the libraries we examined in Bucks county of a municipal contract for Library services, a contract arrangement

could provide for more control and accountability and might be an option worth exploring.

6. There appears to be no legal requirement under the current structure, for a formal agreement between the New Hope Borough and Solebury Township regarding the Library, since the FLNHS is an independent organization, not founded by or controlled by those municipalities.

APPENDIX 1

BRIEF HISTORY OF LIBRARY & THE TOWNSHIP'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Free Library of New Hope Solebury is an independent, non-profit institution created in 1918 to serve local residents.

Currently, the FLNHS has three full-time and two part-time employees, as well as volunteers. Its nine member Board, in addition to general oversight, also is charged with raising funds. The programs the FLNHS provides are varied, and while it is difficult to find consistent data (the State Librarian compiles data but aggregates it in a manner which is inconsistent with that given to them by the FLNHS), the FLNHS's internal figures show a significant increase in services and visits in the last two years (visits up 39%, programs increased by 42% and attendance up 43%).

In 1974 the FLNHS moved into its current location at 93 W Ferry Street in New Hope. In 2015-16 the FLNHS undertook a significant renovation at that location, paid for by a combination of grants and a capital fundraising campaign. Some years ago, 1.5 acres of the Cintra property (at 181 W Ferry Street, across from the high school) was promised to the FLNHS as a possible building site for a new expanded facility. Any new building would be funded from a capital campaign (although there appear to be no immediate plans for such a project).

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Over the last ten years, the Township's contribution has doubled, to its current level:

Year.	Amount
2011	60,000
2012	60,000
2013	60,000
2014	60,000

2015	90,000
2016	90,000
2017	100,000
2018	100,000
2019	120,000
2020	120,000

For 2019 the FLNHS requested its funding level be increased to \$170k. The Township increased its contribution from \$100,000 to \$120,000 specifically noting it was for that year only. The FLNHS made a similar request for 2020, but the Township budget was passed with no increase over the \$120k.

The Township's contribution is funded from property taxes, equaling a millage of .491, which equates to about \$120k/yr. This millage is not a voter-approved library tax, but a portion of general revenue millage designated for funding the Township's contribution to the library.

FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

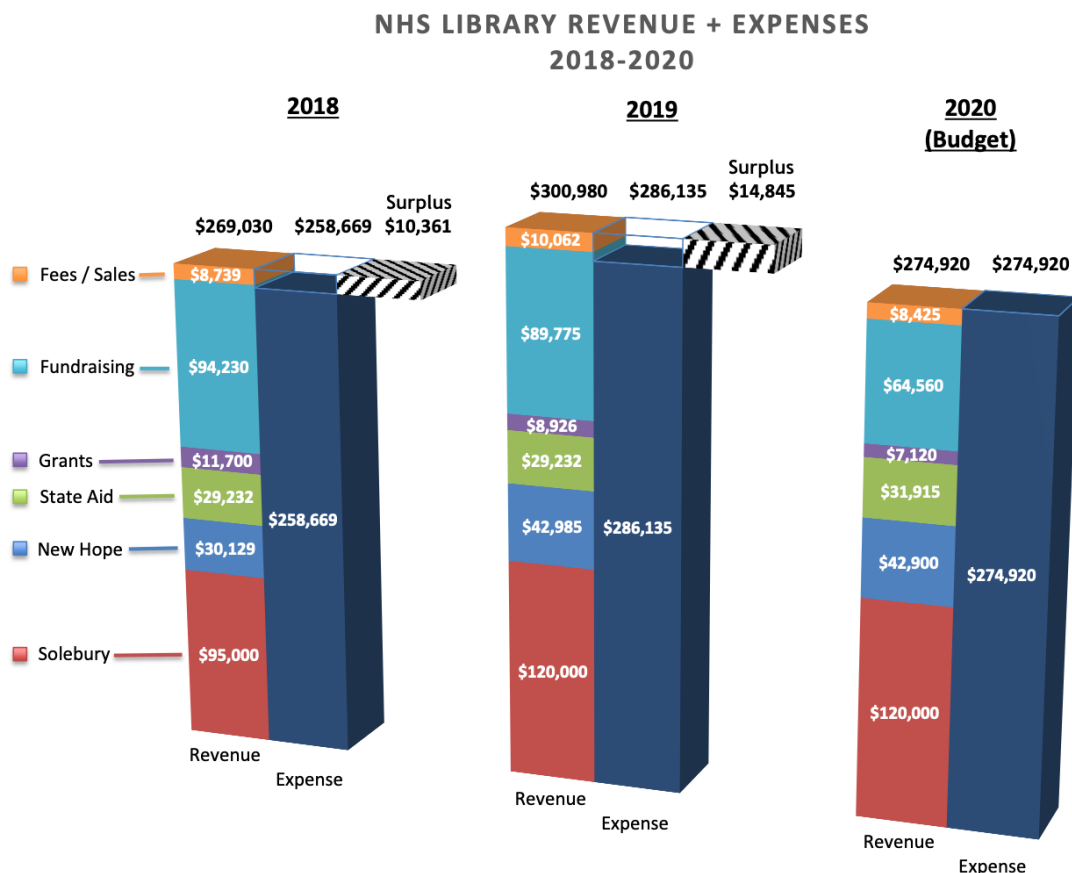
The FLNHS has for many years been supported financially by both New Hope Borough and Solebury Township, as well as receiving state aid. The balance of its budget has in the past been met largely through fundraising efforts, both annual appeals and Board-sponsored events.

The financial reports from the FLNHS's own figures list income and operating expenses in their entirety. Because it is not possible to attribute any particular expenditure to the Township's contribution, we cannot determine with any specificity to what extent any increases in the Township contribution may have resulted in what particular program or service to Solebury residents. But we can look at how the funding mix has evolved.

Since 2015 The FLNHS's budget has remained fairly consistent, although the share of funding has shifted. 2018 the percentage of the funding from the various sources was: Solebury Township (36%); State (10%); New Hope (11%); fundraising (32%); fees/grants/gifts (9%); and endowment withdrawal (2%).

In the last few years, the proportions have changed. In the Library's 2020 operating budget, the share of funding is: Solebury Township (44%), State (11%), New Hope (16%); fundraising (20%); fees/grants/gifts (7%); endowment withdrawal (2%)

As these figures show, the Library is on sound financial footing, and indeed had a surplus in the last two years. In addition, the FLNHS entity owns its building and collection along with other assets (including a \$1 million unrestricted endowment fund) giving the FLNHS a net value of \$2,000,000. Its fundraising efforts have been consistently successful, which, combined with municipal and state contributions, have always allowed the Library to meet its budget.



FLNHS REQUEST FOR INCREASE TO SOLEBURY CONTRIBUTION

In 2019, and again in 2020, the FLNHS Board requested that Solebury Township increase its funding level by \$50,000 to a total of \$170,000, for the next 3 to 5 years, in order for the FLNHS to build its endowment so that it could become “self-sustaining.”

Placing this increase in the Township’s contribution into the budget revenue and expense projections shows that it would transform the funding model from a shared one to one in which government would fund virtually the entire FLNHS budget. Now 71% of its budget comes from government sources. If Solebury increased its contribution to the requested \$170,000, government funding would pay 90% of the FLNHS’s operating costs for the next 3 to 5 years, with gifts, grants and fees making up another 5% and fundraising 5%.

APPENDIX 2

NEARBY LIBRARIES FUNDING LEVELS AND MODELS

NORTHAMPTON LIBRARY

Diane Remington, Director 215 357-3050

The Township funds the Library with a dedicated tax rate of 1.72.

There is a Township Supervisor assigned to the Library who attends most meetings of the Advisory Board. The Township does not ask for any special reporting beyond the annual report that the State collects.

All employees are Township employees and the Township owns the building. Some financial aspects of the Library, unrelated to the hiring of staff, are made independent of the Township but require an additional audit. Every applicant to the Library's Board of Directors is interviewed by the Supervisors. It is a 7 person Board that meets 9 times per year. The Township has fairly tight control over the finances of the library. For example, last year a staff member died in April and the Township refused the Director's request to fill that position and instructed her to use that money to pay for the RFID system.

UPPER SOUTHAMPTON LIBRARY

Kim Ingram, Director 215 322-1415 x100

This is an independent community Library that is located in a Township of 15,150 people. Their operating budget is \$680,000 and they receive \$571,000 from the Township and \$56,000 from the State.

The Township owns the building and the Supervisors pay for all exterior costs and repairs such as landscaping, sidewalks, plowing, new roof, etc. The Library pays for any interior renovations through fundraising.

The amount of money that the Supervisors provide is determined every year based on the Library budget including anticipated increases. The Library presents the budget and the Supervisors provide the needed amount.

The Board is an operating Board and when there is an anticipated vacancy the Library Board recruits new members and interviews them and then sends the names of the people they are recommending to the Supervisors and the Supervisors appoint the recommended Library Board members.

WARMINSTER LIBRARY

Tracy Reed, Director

The Library receives funds via a dedicated millage of 1.85 and that determines the budget the Librarian has to work with for operating expenses plus the state funding and any grants they are able to procure. There is also Friends group that raises some money to purchase needed items.

The Library is a now a Department of the Township and all staff are town employees. Nine years ago the Library was an independent non-profit but requested to be made a Department so they could provide health insurance for the staff. Any staffing changes—adding a new position or changing the hours of a current position—need to be approved by township manager.

The building was built through bond issues.

There is a Library Advisory Board appointed by the Supervisors. The members are chosen every two years and they can reapply at the end of their terms. The Library does not make any recommendations for the Advisory Board. It is an active board of Library advocates which meets monthly and discusses trends in the community and suggests programs. Many of the members are also volunteers in the Library. The board functions more like a focus

group than any kind of operating board. One Township Supervisor is the liaison and regularly attends the Advisory Board meetings.

LOWER SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

Dennis Stranz, Director, 215 355-1183

Last year the Township budget included \$585,000 for the Library. At one time there was a millage but the Township discontinued it. It is now a donation from the Township's general fund.

The Township owns the Library building and has a capital reserve to cover repairs. The Library is not a department of Township Government and the Library employees are not employed directly by the Library. However, Library employees are provided benefits through the Township. The Township also manages the payroll for the Library. Both of these are paid for by the Library by sending part \$585,000 received from the Township back.

The Library recruits people for their Board. The Township Board of Supervisors approves them all, although it's mostly a rubber stamp.

The amount of money that the township allocates to the Library is determined every year based on budget. The Library presents their expenses and anticipated revenue and the Supervisors allocate the difference.

MORRISVILLE

Diane Hughes. Director

The Library was originally independent of the Borough, but the 1950's a referendum was voted on and the Library became part of Borough Government. The library is supported by a millage.

The Borough owns the building and covers all costs for the building. The Borough manager oversees the hiring process for any staff. In addition, the Township Supervisors appoint all Library Board members. If the Library finds someone who is interested they encourage them to apply to the Supervisors.

RIEGELSVILLE

Terri Randolph, Director 610 749-2357

This Library serves two municipalities: Riegelsville and Durham Township. The combined population of both is less than 2100. There is no dedicated tax from either Riegelsville or Durham. Rather, they provide an annual amount based on what they have available. The most recent allocations are \$4200 from Riegelsville and \$4000 from Durham Township.

That year the Library was funded with the \$8200 from the municipalities, \$47,000 from the State, \$13,000 in annual appeal and additional fundraising from book sales and small events organized by the active Friends of the Library.

Riegelsville Borough owns the building and the Library is on the second floor. The first floor is township space including a community room which the Library has use of. The Library pays a share of the utilities. Recent repairs and renovations were paid for through a Keystone Grant that the Borough applied for.

Neither township appoints any Board members. Library Board members periodically appear at Durham and Riegelsville Supervisor meetings to report on programs that were held. They share their annual budget and audit with the governing bodies.

APPENDIX 3

LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT & POTENTIAL FUNDING MODELS

INTRODUCTION

Municipalities are, by law, allowed to financially support local libraries. The PA Library Statutes (24 PA.C.S) states:

§ 9351. Financial support for libraries authorized.

(a) Municipalities empowered to support libraries.--The municipal officers of a municipality may establish a local library or aid in the maintenance of a local library established by deed, gift or testamentary provision for the use of the residents of the municipality through:

- (1) Appropriations out of current revenue of the municipality.
- (2) Money raised by the levy of a special library tax.
Special library tax.

This section of the document will identify issues raised by our reading of the statute governing establishment and maintenance of libraries by municipalities, particularly as they relate to the current funding model in place between the Township and the FLNHS. What are the obligations and responsibilities of the parties under the Pennsylvania Statutes and Code, as well as the FLNHS's own bylaws? Are the Township and the FLNHS in compliance with those laws and bylaws? How does the fact that both the Borough of New Hope and the Township support the FLNHS legally affect the relationship?

Further it will examine the potential other models allowed under Pennsylvania law for the Township to fund a library, should Solebury wish to change the current relationship. Those other funding models are: (1) levying a special library tax, (2) a 'contract for services' relationship between the Township and the FLNHS, and (3) the establishment and maintenance of a township owned library.

CURRENT FUNDING MODEL—UNRESTRICTED ANNUAL DONATION

The current funding relationship is an unrestricted donation, provided annually, from Solebury to the FLNHS. Generally, the FLNHS makes a presentation to the Township outlining their financial need for the upcoming year and asks Solebury for a specific sum. Based on that proposal, the Township provides funds to the FLNHS. These donations have ranged from \$10,000 15 years ago to \$120,000 in the most recent budget. The FLNHS also makes a presentation to the Borough of New Hope who have, historically, made an annual donation to the FLNHS.

Agreement with New Hope

The fact that both the Township and the Borough of New Hope provide support to the FLNHS raises the question as to whether or not a written agreement between the Borough and Solebury, or all three parties (the FLNHS, the Borough and the Township) is necessary. The language of the PA Library Statutes indicates that a written agreement is not needed. The Statutes do address collaborative library ventures between multiple municipalities, but it is silent on situations such as the current relationship between the Borough of New Hope, the Township, and the FLNHS.

It states in pertinent part (24 PA.C.S. §9320)

(b) Joint action by municipalities.--The following shall apply:

- (1) Two or more municipalities may unite in establishing and maintaining a local library under the terms of an agreement entered into between them.
- (2) The agreement shall be in writing and shall set forth:
 - (i) The purpose of the agreement.
 - (ii) The terms for support and control of the local library.
 - (iii) The conditions under which the agreement may be altered or terminated.
- (3) The agreement is not valid until it is:
 - (i) Accepted by a majority vote of the municipal officers of each municipality that is a party to the agreement.

(ii) Signed by the proper officer of each municipality that is a party to the agreement.

The statute refers only to instances where multiple municipalities “unite in **establishing and maintaining**” a library. The Township and the Borough of New Hope did not establish, nor do they jointly maintain, the FLNHS. The Township and the Borough merely both provide support. Therefore, the section of the PA Library Statutes seems not to apply. Because the Statute is silent on instances where multiple municipalities provide annual support to a single library, we can infer that no formal agreement is mandated.

The practices of other libraries in the region may also help to answer this question. The Kennett Square Library is a good example (www.kennettlibrary.org) That library serves the Townships of Kennett, East Marlborough, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Newlin, New Garden, West Marlborough, and the Borough of Kennett Square—all of which provide some level of financial support. The 2020 donations ranged from \$158,000 (Kennett Township) to \$2000 (West Marlborough Township). There is no written agreement between any of the supporting municipalities (and borough).

Township Appointed Trustee (Municipal Appointee)

Both Pennsylvania law and the bylaws of the FLNHS state that, under the current funding model, the Township has the right, but not an obligation, to appoint up to two members of the FLNHS Board of directors.

The Pennsylvania Library Statutes state (24 PA.C.S. §9318):

Local library governance.

(a) Board of library directors.--The following shall apply:
(1) A local library established under this chapter or the former act of June 14, 1961 (P.L.324, No.188), known as The Library Code, shall be governed exclusively by a board of library directors as follows:

(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), the board shall be composed of not fewer than five nor more than seven members.

(ii) If two or more municipalities contribute to the establishment of, maintenance of and aid to a local library, the municipalities may appoint a maximum of nine members to serve on the board as they mutually agree.

(2) The municipal officers of a municipality shall appoint a majority of the members of the local library board if the municipality maintains or aids a local library that is established:

(i) after June 14, 1961; and

(ii) by deed, gift or testamentary provision or in any manner other than under section 9351 (relating to financial support for libraries authorized) or 9352 (relating to popular subscription).

(3) The municipal officers of a municipality shall not appoint more than two members of the local library board if the municipality maintains or aids a local library that was established prior to June 14, 1961, by deed, gift or testamentary provision or by any association, corporation or group.

Parts (1) and (2) of the above statute apply only to libraries founded after June 14, 1961.

Because the FLNHS was founded prior to that date (it was officially established in 1918)

subsection (3) applies. Therefore Solebury “shall not appoint more than two members” to the FLNHS Board. It’s notable that the PA Statutes appear not to require the Township to appoint members in Part (3) as it does in Parts (1) and (2). This could be read to mean that Solebury may, but does not have to, appoint up to two members to the FLNHS Board of Trustees.

The FLNHS’s own bylaws (which could be changed by a majority vote of the FLNHS Board of Trustees) reflect the same. The bylaws state that:

The municipal officers of each municipality aiding the maintenance of the Library (the “Municipal Officers”) may appoint a maximum of two qualified Trustees (the “Municipal Appointments”) as openings are created on the Board by the leaving, resignation or removal of a Trustee living in that Municipality. No municipality shall have more than two Municipal Appointments on the Board at any given time. All remaining Trustees shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

The use of the word “may” in the first sentence denotes that there is no obligation on the part of the Township to make such appointments.

There is also an issue raised by inclusion of the word “qualified” in the same sentence. “Qualified” is a vague, and undefined, term as its used in these bylaws. It’s also unclear as to which entity—Solebury, the FLNHS, some other third party—gets to decide whether or not a potential appointee is qualified. This sentence is in conflict with itself. It grants a right to the Township to make an appointment, then inserts an undefined caveat, diminishing that right. Further, it would seem that the main benefit that the Township derives from appointing a member to the FLNHS Board of Trustees is that it can choose someone the *Township* deems to be qualified and competent (see below for a discussion of the municipal appointees allegiances and duties) which makes the “qualified” caveat even more puzzling.

This part of the FLNHS bylaws was changed by a vote of their board members at their March 2020 meeting. The prior version of the FLNHS bylaws stated that “[t]he municipal officers of each municipality aiding in the maintenance of the Library (the ‘Municipal Officers’) shall appoint at least two of the trustees (the ‘Municipal Appointments’).” Note that the prior version used the word “shall” rather than “may” and did not include the concept of the appointee being “qualified”.

Some clarification might be found in the PA Code, which is not binding law per se, but lays out the state’s agency regulations. In order to receive funding from the state library system the FLNHS would need to be in compliance with the regulations in the PA Code. In the section the criteria to be used by the state librarian to distribute funding (22 PA Code §141.21) the matter of municipal appointees is addressed. There it states:

In the case of a local library established prior to June 14, 1961, each municipality which contributes to the support or aids in the maintenance of the local library shall appoint a number of members to serve on the board of library directors as is mutually agreed upon by such

municipalities, provided that no single municipality shall be required to appoint more than two board members, and provided, further, that the appointment of board positions agreed to by such municipalities shall be subject to the approval of the State Librarian.

Given that the FLNHS needs to be in compliance with the above regulations in order to secure state funding (in 2018 the FLNHS received roughly \$30,000 in state aid) it is in their best interest to comply with the PA Code.

It's also significant to note that under the PA Code the municipal appointees "shall be subject to the approval of the State Librarian." This could mean that the State Librarian has the right to approve or refuse a municipal appointment based on that person's individual qualifications, or it might mean that the State Librarian must approve the overall scheme— i.e. number of board members appointed, etc.

Role & Duties of the Municipal Appointee

Once the Township makes an appointment to the FLNHS Board of Trustees, the appointee is no longer beholden to the Township in any way, or obligated to take the needs or interests of the Township into account when making decisions or acting as a Trustee of the FLNHS. Even if the Township asked its appointee to act as a liaison between the two entities— perhaps reporting to the Township about whether or not the annual donation was being spent wisely—the appointed trustee would be obligated to only report that which was in the best interest of the FLNHS.

This is very clearly laid out in the PA Statutes regarding non-profit board members.

15 PA.C.S. §5103 defines "directors" as:

[i]ndividuals designated, elected or appointed, by that or any other name or title, to act as members of the board of directors, and their successors. The term does not include a member of an other body, unless the person is also a director. The term, when used in relation to any power or duty requiring

collective action, shall be construed to mean "board of directors."

Further 15 PA.C.S. § 5712 states:

Standard of care and justifiable reliance.

(a) Directors.--A director of a nonprofit corporation shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the corporation and shall perform his duties as a director, including his duties as a member of any committee of the board upon which he may serve, in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances.

And, when a person joins the FLNHS Board of Trustees they must annually sign a "Commitment Letter" that states, among other things, that they "have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals."

It is tempting to think that, because the concept of municipal support and the appointment of a trustee member are linked in the Pennsylvania Statutes and Code, that the point of the appointee is to provide some sort of oversight of the FLNHS by the Township. But, as the law quoted above shows, that simply can not be. The only thing that the Township receives in return for a donation in support of the the FLNHS is the ability to chose someone to serve on the Board of Trustees that the Township deems to be competent and qualified. Once they are appointed, by law they serve the library, not the Township.

Control of Funds Under the Current Funding Model

Additionally, the PA statutes denote that, once funds are given to a local library, their use is entirely at the discretion of that library's board. 24 PA.C.S. § 9318 states:

(f) Control of all funds.--Any money appropriated for the establishment or maintenance of a local library and all moneys,

if any, received from other sources for the use of the library shall be under the exclusive control of and disbursed under the direction of the board.

This functionally prevents the Township from making an annual donation to the FLNHS, then—during the course of that year—attempting to exert any supervision regarding the use of the donated funds. In other words, once the FLNHS gets the money, it is theirs to spend.

Reporting Requirements Under the Current Funding Model

Finally, we note that § 9318 requires that libraries receive funds from a municipality, annually provide that municipality with an accounting of how the municipal support was used by the Library. It states in pertinent part:

Annual report.--The following shall apply:

(1) The board and any library receiving municipal appropriations shall make an annual report to the proper municipal authorities of:

(i) Any moneys received by the library from the municipality.

(ii) Any disbursements of moneys received by the library from the municipality.

(iii) The accounts of the treasurer of the board, which shall be audited in the same manner as other municipal expenditures.

(2) The annual report shall include:

(i) An itemized statement of all receipts from all sources.

(ii) All expenditures.

(iii) A description of the condition of the library and any branches.

(iv) An accounting of the volumes, maps, pamphlets and other materials of the library, including:

(A) The total number of materials in the library's possession.

(B) The number of materials added by purchase, gift or otherwise.

(C) The number of materials lost or withdrawn.

(v) The number of registered borrowers and readers.

(vi) A statement of the circulation of materials.

(vii) Any other information and suggestions as the board desires.

(3) A copy of each annual report shall be sent to the State Library.

While the library provides copies of the information relating to materials, etc. it does not appear that an accounting of the funds in the detail described by statute has in the past been provided. The accounting is a general one, with income from all sources itemized but expenditures of whatever nature listed without linking them to specific sources of income.

OTHER POTENTIAL FUNDING STRUCTURES

The Pennsylvania Statutes lay out a few other methods through which a municipality may fund a local library.

Levied Tax

24 PA.C.S §9315 details the processes and ramifications of the institution of a specific library tax within a municipality. The title of this section is “Development of Local Libraries” which denotes that the passage and collection of a library tax is meant as a tool for the creation of a municipally controlled library, rather than as a means to support a separate entity such as the FLNHS. If the monies are given directly to the library as Solebury does now, a strict reading of the statute raises the question of whether the passage of a levied tax would, at the very least, equate to a legal re-organization of the FLNHS.

§ 9315. Development of local libraries.

(a) Vote on library tax; approval.--The qualified voters of a municipality shall determine at a special election whether to establish an annual special library tax on all taxable property of the municipality for the establishment of, maintenance of and aid to a local library under the following procedures[.]

Note the use of the word “and” in the second to last line above. The section says the voters may chose establish a library tax “for the establishment of, maintenance of *and* aid to a local library ...” Were the levied tax meant to apply in funding relationships such as the one

between the Township and the FLNHS, where support is given to an existing independent library, it would seem the “and” would be an “or”. The use of “and” could mean that all three things must be accomplished with the library taxes collected: 1) the establishment of a local library; 2) the maintenance of that library; and 3) on going aid to that library.

The statute then describes the process through which a tax may be implemented. First a petition signed by 3% of the number of residents who voted in the last general election calling for a vote on the library tax must be presented to the municipal officers. Then, within a certain time frame, a special election must be held. The statute then, delineates what actions the municipality must take if the levy passes:

- (4) If the majority of votes cast approves of the library tax, at the first meeting following the official announcement of the results of the election, the municipal officers shall:
- (i) Take the necessary steps to levy and collect the tax.
 - (ii) Appoint a board of library directors to have exclusive control of the library and library tax revenue as provided in section 9318 (relating to local library governance).

Part (ii) denotes that, if a library tax is levied, the municipality must, essentially, control the appointment of the board of trustees. Looking back to 24 PA.C.S. §9318, which is referenced above. The statute is vague, but this could be interpreted to mean that a levied tax would essentially create a new library—changing the establishment of the library to *after* the critical date of June 14, 1961—and thus a different section of §9318 would apply:

- (2) The municipal officers of a municipality shall appoint a majority of the members of the local library board if the municipality maintains or aids a local library that is established:
- (i) after June 14, 1961; and
 - (ii) by deed, gift or testamentary provision or in any manner other than under section 9351 (relating to financial support for libraries authorized) or 9352 (relating to popular subscription)

Would this change the composition of the FLNHS Board of Trustees? Rather than requiring that the Township appoint one or two of the members, then would the Township appoint “a majority of the members?”

Contract for Library Services

There is an exception to the “levied library tax = municipal control” formula discussed above. Further down in §9315 service contracts are discussed:

- (e) Contract for library service.--The following shall apply:
- (1) A municipality may contract with the managers or owners of an existing local library for public library service to the residents of the municipality, whether the library is located in the same or another municipality. The contract may be renewed as permitted by the terms of the contract.
 - (2) The municipal officers of a municipality may make appropriations from current municipal revenue or moneys raised by the library tax to pay the contractual obligations under paragraph (1).
 - (3) If a special library tax is levied, all income from the tax shall be used for the establishment of, maintenance of and aid to the local library with which the municipal officers have entered into contract.

This scheme allows a municipality, using either money derived from a special library tax or from general revenues, to enter into a contractual relationship with an existing local library to provide library services to its residents. It’s important to note that the statute specifically allows this type of arrangement with a library that is “located in the same or another municipality” which fits the Township and the FLNHS’s current situation.

Other than the noting that such an arrangement is allowed, the statute offers very little guidance on how that relationship would work. This means that it is probably largely up to the two entities (and the prevailing law of contracts) to determine the contours of the agreement.

Entering into a service contract with the FLNHS may offer the Township an attractive combination of flexibility and the ability to ensure some level of real-time accountability, while also offering the FLNHS a predictable fiscal relationship with the Township.

Municipally Operated & Owned Library

Finally, as a long-term option, the Township could operate a library itself, owning the real estate and resources and employing the staff directly.

§ 9351 of the Pennsylvania Statutes (Financial support for libraries authorized) states that “[t]he municipal officers of a municipality *may establish a local library* or aid in the maintenance of a local library[.]”

There are restrictions about creating competing libraries. 24 PA.C.S. §9315 states:

(f) **Limitation on establishment of new libraries.**—The following shall apply:

(1) No new library may be established under the provisions of this chapter in any municipality where there is a local library which:

(i) is open to the use of all the residents of the municipality; and

(ii) meets the minimum standards recommended by the State Librarian as conditions for participation in State aid.

(2) All State aid authorized under this chapter shall be given to an existing local library meeting the provisions of paragraph (1).

In practice this likely means that the establishment of a Township operated library would involve a coordinated effort and hand-off between the Township and the FLNHS (and quite possibly the Borough of New Hope). But if, at some point in time, the FLNHS outgrows its current location, and real estate becomes available in the Township, the creation of a Solebury Township managed library is a possibility.

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 'READY FOR 100' RENEWABLE ENERGY MOVEMENT

RESOLUTION 2020-98

WHEREAS, Climate change is a global long-term threat to civilization and Earth's living ecosystems, and is occurring at a rate unprecedented in human history, threatening to overwhelm the abilities of society and nature to adapt;

WHEREAS, Extreme weather associated with climate change poses immediate risks as it becomes more commonplace; testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impacting our access to food, water and energy supplies; heightening disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; impacting negatively on the quality of life and human health, increasing cost for disaster relief, restoration, and prevention; and resulting in a commensurate increase in taxes and cost of services to pay for these effects;

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities, the rate at which climate change is occurring is largely the result of the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and combustion of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions;

WHEREAS, The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C (3.6°F), ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100;

WHEREAS, The US government's November 2017 Climate Science Special Report states that "It is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century";

WHEREAS, In January 2019, Governor Tom Wolf issued an executive order stating, "the Commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050";

WHEREAS, currently 31 municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania including 12 in Montgomery County, 12 in Chester County, 5 in Delaware County, one other in Bucks County and also the city of Philadelphia, have stepped up as regional leaders and passed resolutions for 'Ready for 100', setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities;

WHEREAS, Solebury Township has demonstrated a commitment to reducing its energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements in multiple areas, including:

- Municipal building energy efficiency improvements, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Lighting and energy system improvements at the Township Building, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Achieving nearly 40% of land in preservation;
- Initiating the replacement of the police vehicle fleet with hybrid vehicles;
- Vigorously supporting sustainable agriculture;
- Being committed to maintaining and improving our natural watersheds;
- Continuing to explore the use of solar power for the municipal facilities.

WHEREAS, Solebury Township is committed to be a community characterized by equality, health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity;

WHEREAS, Solebury Township recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to take an

active stance to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within the Township;

WHEREAS, The best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other regional energy leaders and participation in acquiring aggregated procurement contracts – Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; to this end, Solebury Township also recognizes the importance of developing a close working relationship with its electric energy supplier(s) to create the most advantageous and mutually beneficial plan for integrating locally generated and renewable power;

AND WHEREAS, A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs, all while simultaneously mitigating the risks from climate change for everyone;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- Solebury Township will endeavor to preserve the past and embrace the future by joining leading towns and cities in the national Ready for 100 movement, with the goal of transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, and completing this transition, community-wide, to:
 - 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035;
 - 100% clean renewable energy when replacing heating system and transportation equipment by 2050;
 - As vehicles are replaced, priority will also be given to transitioning the Solebury Township vehicle fleet to 100% renewable energy sources by 2030 where feasible;
- The Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council will provide guidance for commissioning a committee, task force, and/or consultant to draft an energy transition plan for achieving these goals by December, 2020 or sooner, to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and the percentage of renewable energy that is locally produced;
- Renewable energy will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal;
- Locally produced and distributed energy is prioritized whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community;
- Solebury Township will continue to strategically decrease energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements;
- Solebury Township will seek to work in collaboration with other regional townships wherever possible and feasible, in the creation of mechanisms and processes to achieve the goals of this resolution;
- Solebury Township stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals;

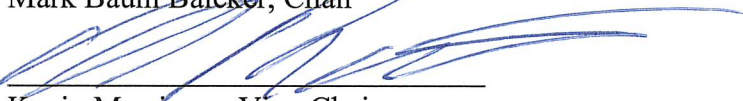
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to State Senator Steve Santarsiero, State Representative Wendi Thomas, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, and U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Patrick Toomey.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED, on the 21st day of July, 2020, at a regular public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township.

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

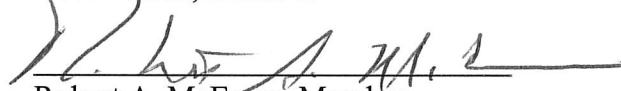


Mark Baum Balcker, Chair

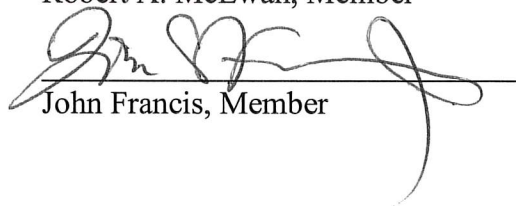


Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair

Noel Barrett, Member

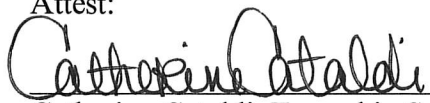


Robert A. McEwan, Member



John Francis, Member

Attest:



Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

July 21, 2020
Date