

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

October 11, 2021

Minutes

Attendance: Dan Fest, Keith Deussing, TJ Francisco, Lesley Marino, Gretchen Rice, Peter Brussock, Curt Genner, (Township Engineer), Pankaj Jobanputra, Township Planner, Kevin Morrissey (Supervisor Liaison), Maureen Carlton, (Township Solicitor) and Jean Weiss (Planning Commission Administrator).

Absent: Keith Deussing, Amishi Castelli

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2021

Upon a Motion made by TJ Francisco, seconded by Lesley Marino the Solebury Township Planning Commission approved the meeting minutes of September 13, 2021.

III. Model Alternative Energy Ordinance/Sustainability Matrix

Curt Genner gave a brief overview of the “low hanging fruit” comments in his review letter dated October 6, 2021 on the sustainability matrix, as requested by the Planning Commission. (memo attached)

Kevin Morrissey suggested the Planning Commission members identify key areas of sustainability that they would like to focus on in the next year or two that can be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their input.

Peter Brussock suggested the Township engage PECO with a possible proposal of, if the Township could get (X) number of residents would they be willing to give bonus incentives for a higher percentage of applications.

Kevin Morrissey suggested the Planning Commission put together a white paper to define what the committee wants to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Dan Fest suggested a waiver of permit fees as an incentive to sustainable initiatives, such as solar panels and geothermal systems.

TJ Francisco briefly went through the sustainability steering committee’s matrix and the responsibilities of the Planning Commission. All of the

discussion goals focused around reviewing and possibly updating SALDO/Ordinance requirements.

The Planning Commission members requested a digital depository/common library of all planning commission materials that could be accessed by each committee member.

IV. Solar Panels – Township Building

TJ Francisco stated he was asked to review the prior Board meeting regarding solar panels that were discussed as a budget item pertaining to the Township Building. The Board's question was not whether it was important, but when it was important. Whether it was a critical installation to be communicated to the community, that we are committed to these technologies and therefore it should be now. Or maybe it's a need for further study to find the most efficient way to go about it. The Board wanted the PC and EAC to deliberate on this to discuss solar panels at the Township Building and about the timeline on an installation like this.

Gretchen Rice feels the expenditure could not be justified at this time, not with other expenditures for outstanding items that need to be addressed with the Township Building. I am more in favor of more study and research, before deciding on such a large expenditure. The other PC members concurred along with being provided with a cost analysis.

VII. Adjournment

Upon a Motion by Peter Brussock, seconded by Gretchen Rice, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Weiss
Planning Commission Administrator, Solebury Township