

Borough Of Ambler

122 EAST BUTLER AVENUE
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002-4476

PHONE 215-646-1000
FAX 215-641-1355 ADMINISTRATION
FAX 215-641-1921 WATER DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE: www.ambler.pa.us



AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF May 24, 2011, MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Ambler Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 East Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, Chairman Steven Ware presided.

Roll Call: Present: Steven Ware, William Mulroy, Dan McCormick, Robert LaGreca, Salvatore Boccuti, Joshua Kanaplue, Margaret Andrews and Carol DiPietro. James Ennis, Montgomery County Planner was also in attendance. James Dougherty, Borough Engineer, was excused from the meeting
EXCUSED ABSENCE: Peter Amento

Robert LaGreca moved the Minutes of April 26, 2011, be approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

James Ennis, Montgomery County Planner, provided information regarding the printing costs that Montgomery Township experienced for a sixteen-panel, brochure-type Comprehensive Plan update. The cost for 9,150 pieces was about 46 cents per piece. Mr. Ennis provided a revised Outline/Timeline of the topics to be reviewed each month at the meeting, estimating that all the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this calendar year. The type or format of the update to the Comprehensive Plan will be addressed after all the information has been gathered.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Isabella and Councilperson Tomlinson attended the meeting to commence discussion to revise the parking ordinance in the Downtown Commercial district to reduce the requirements hoping to encourage business growth within the Downtown Commercial District in the Borough.

Suggested amendments for consideration:

A change in use does not necessarily trigger additional parking requirements, but a change in the footprint of the building does.

Increase proposed 25% credit toward parking requirements. (Possibly to 50%)

Increase the square-footage calculation for the food-related (restaurant) use.

Research examples of parking ratios for various uses in other municipalities in an effort to increase the parking ratios.

Adding a "Conditional Use" for Council to have the discretion to waive one or two remaining parking spaces required after the credit is applied.

Eliminate the requirement for spaces for employees.

CONTINUED BUSINESS FOR JUNE, 2011, MEETING:

County Planner will prepare a memo and e-mail it to each member prior to the June, 2011, meeting, outlining Ambler's achievements and potential concepts for consideration in the Comp Plan Update.

The Code Enforcement Officer offered to prepare a chart for additional parking for review at the June, 2011 meeting.

County Planner will research parking ratios in other municipalities and present the information for discussion at the June, 2011, meeting.

The various suggested amendments for reduction of the parking requirements will be discussed.

Bernadette Dougherty, a resident, applauded the Planning Commission's suggestions to reduce the parking requirements.

Robert LaGreca moved the meeting be adjourned, Seconded and Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Ann DiPietro
Recording Secretary,
AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION