

DRAFT

AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2020, MEETING

The Regular June Meeting of the Ambler Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via an internet vehicle ZOOM. Consistent with Council President's and the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency executed Tuesday, April 7, 2020, this action was taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our community and to promote our commitment to maintain social distancing in our community. The meeting was not held at Borough Hall as previously advertised. A public copy of the meeting agenda was posted on the Borough website and the public was invited to forward questions or comments to the Glenn Kucher, Code Enforcement Officer, by 5:00 p.m. this evening or request attendance at the meeting. Glenn Kucher hosted the meeting and Chairman Robert Lagreca presided.

ROLL CALL: Present: David Kralle, Carissa Hazelton, Elizabeth Iovine, Carol Ann DiPietro, Salvatore Boccuti, Peter Amento, William Mulroy, Al Comly and Robert Lagreca.

Also in attendance: Glenn Kucher. Borough Code Enforcement Officer, Michael Lowrey, Montgomery County Planner, and Nellie DiPietro, Councilperson.

James Dougherty, Borough Engineer was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Salvatore Boccuti made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020, seconded by William Mulroy. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review the guidelines and recommend changes to the Borough's existing wireless ordinance and fee schedule to comply with the FCC order as well as develop design requirements for wireless facilities in the rights-of-way to prevent aesthetically obtrusive facilities. Montgomery County review will follow at a later date.

Input is requested to create a conceptual plan incorporating identified community needs and improvements for each park in the Borough to be used as part of a larger Master Park Plan. For the past couple meetings we reviewed all the parks in Ambler as well as surrounding areas. The three parks that rise to the top of the discussion are Pickering Field, Knight Park and Ricciardi Park. This matter was tabled for discussion at a later date.

Input is requested to create a preliminary Energy Transition Plan in line with the Ambler Borough Ready for 100 Renewable Energy Resolution adopted by Borough Council March, 2019. The goal is to reduce the use of fossil fuel. Nellie DiPietro, Councilperson, presented Council's vision and expectation for the Plan at the September, 2019, Planning Commission meeting. The focus is on efficacy and sustainability. After a few months of discussion another draft of the document was presented to each Planning Commission member earlier today by e-mail. Glenn Kucher, Elizabeth Russell, Michael Lowrey and Nellie DiPietro did an excellent job in preparing this draft for review. Discussion began with the corrections, additions and changes made to the document and the need for additional changes. Jon Leshner, Principal Environmental Planner with the Montgomery County Planning Commission offered comments to the document, especially the Executive Summary. The separate Implementation page was discussed and amended by Nellie DiPietro during the meeting in accordance with suggestions from the Commission members. This page will no longer set forth priorities, and the objectives will be reported in the order of the sections they relate to in the Plan. The revised draft will be provided to the Planning Commission members for review prior to our next meeting. After the Planning Commission is satisfied with the document, a vote will be taken to recommend the plan to Council for approval and ultimate delivery to a consultant.

Comment Period: After discussion, the two residents who registered to comment, Sara Hertz, Councilperson and resident at 122 N Ridge Avenue, and Madge Monser, 372 Forest Avenue were called on. Ms. Hertz did not speak. Ms. Monser commented on the proposal for sidewalks on Park Avenue around Pickering Field. She asked that other options be considered and the response was that other options, studies and plans are being considered and will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Planning Commission expressed its appreciation to Mr. Kucher for hosting the meeting on ZOOM. We recognize that additional work is necessary for him to prepare for and hold our meetings, and we thank him for his efforts.

CONTINUED BUSINESS FOR JULY AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Receive and review Montgomery County review letter and thereafter vote to adopt ordinance regulating design standards for the new small wireless facilities.

Further work on the Ready for 100 Renewable Energy preliminary energy transition plan. Review the requested changes to Executive Summary and Implementation/Goals/Objectives sections at the July meeting.

Further work on a conceptual plan incorporating identified community needs and improvements for each park in the Borough.

Salvatore Boccuti made a motion at 8:02 seconded by Peter Amento to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Ann DiPietro
Recording Secretary,
AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION