

AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021, MEETING

The Regular February Meeting of the Ambler Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via 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.

Prior to this regular meeting a special public meeting began at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of public input for Borough Park, Edgewood Preserve, Tennis Avenue Open Space and Tennis/Spring Garden Triangle. The meeting was conducted by Glenn Kucher and Michael Lowrey. Residents' comments expressed for Borough Park were for it to remain a passive park with natural landscape, to remove invasive plants and focus on planting native species, enhance entrances, possible connections to Green Ribbon Trail and educational signage. Residents' comments expressed for Edgewood Preserve also included removing invasive species and leaving the lot natural. The Tennis Avenue Open Space was presented and discussed. One suggestion is to erect a "gateway" sign. Some general comments were to consider allowing dogs in other parks. This meeting ended about 6:55 and a five-minute recess occurred before the beginning of the Regular November Meeting at 7:00.

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

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

Carissa Hazelton, William Mulroy and James Dougherty, Borough Engineer, were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Al Comly made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021, seconded by Peter Amento. 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 Dated September 26, 2018, 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. The residents' comments made at the Public Meeting for Ricciardi Park at 6:00 were briefly acknowledged. At the October meeting, the members created a schedule for the monthly public meetings to discuss each park. The meetings begin at 6:00 on the night of the regularly-scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

March 23, 2021: Wahl, Jean Thompson, Locust Street and Ambler Square

Input is requested on Zoning Ordinance language prepared by the Borough Solicitor to define murals, differentiate them from signs, and establish criteria for murals. Our Code Enforcement Officer explained the legal issues and the background leading to the development of the language. After discussion at the meeting, a motion was made and carried unanimously to recommend to Council to consider adopting the Zoning Ordinance language as presented this date to the Planning Commission defining murals to differentiate them from signs and establish criteria. A roll-call vote with 7 members present was 7 ayes. The County Planner attended the ZOOM meeting and advised that the County supports this language. A letter will be prepared to Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Input is requested on draft Ordinance language amending the area calculation that triggers storm water requirements from 1,000 square feet to 750 square feet. Our Code Enforcement Officer presented the Ordinance. After discussion at our meeting held this date via ZOOM, a motion was made and carried unanimously to recommend to Council to consider adopting this amendment. A roll-call vote with 7 members present was 7 ayes. The County Planner attended the ZOOM meeting and advised that the County supports this amendment. A letter will be prepared to Council.

The Planning Commission expressed its appreciation to Mr. Kucher and the Borough Staff for hosting the meeting on ZOOM and to Michael Lowrey for his research and presentations at the public meeting and the Planning Commission Meeting.

Several residents were in attendance.

CONTINUED BUSINESS FOR MARCH AND FUTURE MEETINGS

March 23, 2021 public meeting for Wahl, Jean Thompson, Locust Street and Ambler Square.

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 a conceptual plan incorporating identified community needs and improvements for each park in the Borough and proposed App for information regarding our parks for users of the park to download to assist them in using our parks to their full potential. Review resident comments and potential changes for each park.

David Krall made a motion at 8:00 seconded by Elizabeth Iovine to adjourn.

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