

PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING  
February 7, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Longswamp Township Planning Commission was held at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building, 1112 State Street, Longswamp Township, Mertztown, Pennsylvania, 7:30 p.m., prevailing time as previously advertised and posted.

**ROLL CALL**

Officials Present: Richard Meier, Chairman; Frank Karoly, and Don Siegfried. Also in attendance were Jill Smith, PE, Hanover Engineering; and Jill Nagy, Esquire, Solicitor.

**ATTENDANCE**

Maryann Lantz, Township Supervisor  
Adam Supplee, KMS Design Group, LLC  
Carl Kelemen, KMS Design Group, LLC  
Larry Lloyd, Berks Conservancy  
Mark Schroetel, Manager, Bear Creek Mountain Resort  
Gary Kline, Events Manager, Bear Creek Mountain Resort

**CALL TO ORDER**

Richard Meier called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Don Siegfried made the motion to table the minutes of the December meeting until certain typographical errors are corrected. Frank Karoly seconded the motion. All in favor.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Engineer's Report for the February 7, 2012 Planning Commission meeting was presented by Jill Smith as follows:

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of January 10, 2012:**

1. The Board of Supervisors adopted the Water Conservation/Well Ordinance which will assist the Township in protecting and conserving the Township's existing ground water supply by providing regulations and by permitting the water usage requirements for private, commercial, and community wells within the Township. This Ordinance only applies to those wells with design or actual usage greater than 2,000 gallons per day. The Board of Supervisors also passed a Resolution establishing a fee schedule for well construction permits and operating licenses.

2. The Board of Supervisors discussed the County's proposed Communication Tower project to be located west of Tower Road and east of Woodside Avenue and agreed the project should go through the typical conditional use hearing and subdivision and land development procedures in accordance with the Township Zoning Ordinance and SALDO.

### **Board of Supervisors Meeting of January 24, 2012**

Meeting Cancelled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **East Penn Manufacturing Topton Facility Parking Expansion**

A 90-day extension of time for review of the Preliminary/Final Plan was requested by the Applicant. A motion was made by Don Siegfried and seconded by Frank Karoly to recommend to the Board of Supervisors they grant an extension to June 6, 2012. All in favor.

#### **Longswamp Township Greenway Discussion**

Dick Meier provided a brief background on the current involvement Longswamp has had in Lower Macungie Township's Greenway project to date, noting last summer Lower Macungie Township invited the Township to respond to a questionnaire regarding a Greenway Study they were undertaking with KMS Design Group, LLC as their consultant. The Longswamp Planning Commission provided recommended responses to the Board of Supervisors and assigned Frank Karoly as the lead contact person for continuing information exchange. Frank Karoly, Mike Sacks, and Dick Meier also attended a progress review meeting at the Lower Macungie Township building on January 17, 2012.

As a result of the meeting and discussions with various representatives, the Planning Commission decided it would be beneficial to invite representatives from KMS Design Group to a Planning Commission meeting, so they could provide an overview of Lower Macungie's project and discuss the potential for extending greenways/trails into Longswamp if the Township would want to pursue such a project.

Adam Supplee and Carl Kelemen, both from KMS Design Group, presented a brief summary of the work currently being undertaken by Lower Macungie Township and provided information regarding Greenway Plans in general. Their presentation included an overview of the typical greenway planning process, multi-municipality greenway planning (including across County boundaries), and public and private funding possibilities. In addition, the feasibility of continuing Lower Macungie Township's proposed greenways into Longswamp Township was also discussed. Two (2) possible destinations within the Township discussed were Hunsicker's Grove, a County-owned park, and Bear Creek Mountain Resort, both located in the eastern portion of the Township. The KMS representatives also suggested the possibility of incorporating into the Township's plan the Mertztown to Oley Hills Greenway, as outlined in the Berks County Greenway Master Plan. In addition, the potential to utilize the old railroad beds of the former Catasauqua and Fogelsville (C&F) Railroad to link Lock Ridge Park in Alburdis through Lower Macungie Township and into Longswamp Township was discussed.

Larry Lloyd from Berks Conservancy followed with discussing the Berks County Greenway, Parks, and Recreation Plan and the importance of a Longswamp Greenway Plan from the perspective of Berks County and the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lloyd also suggested the Township consider providing greenways that extend to the Borough of Topton.

The importance of greenways and trails to connect open spaces, natural features, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites, as well as to connect urban and rural communities was noted through discussion.

It was also noted trail-oriented greenways should be considered to link neighborhoods, parks, communities, and public and private recreational facilities, and that greenways can have a positive effect on property values.

Possible public and private funding sources were discussed, including the possibility of the Township applying for a DCNR grant, as Lower Macungie did. It was noted public grants typically require matching contributions from the Township and/or in kind services to be provided.

All Planning Commission attendees noted they were in favor of proceeding with the greenway project and the development of an Official Township Map. It was noted the deadline for submitting a DCNR grant application is April 4th.

Larry Lloyd offered to speak with the Berks County Planning Commission regarding the Township's possible desire to apply for a DCNR grant, but encouraged Longswamp to contact them as well, and to contact our DCNR representative, Dennis DeMara. He indicated that letters of support would need to be included in the grant application from Berks County Planning Commission, as well as Albutis Borough and Lower Macungie Township if it is proposed to connect to Lower Macungie's greenway plan.

### **Planning Commission Recommendation**

A motion was made by Don Siegfried, seconded by Frank Karoly, to recommend to the Supervisors to proceed with exploring a matching Greenway grant application. All in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Don Siegfried at 9:30 p.m. and seconded by Frank Karoly. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Smith, (Acting) Recording Secretary