

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
January 18, 2006**

Chairman Whipple called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Vice Chairman Teddy Price and Supervisors Juanita Bennett, Roger Wilson and Norman Hughes. Also present were Interim Township Mgr. Steven Ross and Eric Brindle, Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC). There were approximately three attendees.

Public Comment:

Mr. Hatton complimented Jeff Eastburn on his accomplishments since being named Assistant Manager.

Approval of Minutes:

BOS Meeting of December 14, 2005: Supervisor Juanita Bennett moved to approve the minutes of the December 14th BOS meeting as submitted. Supervisor Norman Hughes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

January 3, 2006 Reorganization Meeting: Supervisor Juanita Bennett moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2006 reorganization meeting as submitted. Supervisor Norman Hughes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2005:

Mgr. Ross outlined the contents of the Treasurer's Report and submitted it to the Board for their approval. Supervisor Teddy Price moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2005. Supervisor Juanita Bennett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HARB Report:

Mrs. Wendy Toman, Chairman of the Historical Commission, presented an update of the activities of the HARB and the Historical Commission. Highlights included the HARB mailing which was sent out from the Township office on December 1, 2005 and included a copy of the Historic Ordinance No. 2003-06, a copy of Volume One of the HARB Design Guidelines which focuses on general information about architectural review in the Historic District (District), and a copy of the map of the District. When completed, the Design Guidelines will consist of five volumes. Ms. Toman advised that the Township's Building Inspector (BI) will be monitoring new residents moving into the District and will distribute this information to them. In addition, it will be given to current residents who come in to discuss renovations to their homes in the District.

At the January meeting of the HARB, the application for renovations to the Dr. J. G. West historic house was approved unanimously. The Board will have the opportunity to review this application at their February meeting and if approved by the Board, the applicant will be granted a building permit by the BI.

Ms. Toman advised that there have been some delays with the signs that the HARB is having made to identify the District. After additional review, the sign maker raised his prices by approximately \$200 due to the signs being more detailed than he had originally thought. The Committee is pursuing an electronically manufactured version of the sign to see if they can get a better price. The alternative will be to simplify the design somewhat in order to stay within budget. The other delay is due to the fact that Mike Barkasi, who is no longer with LTL and therefore no longer acting as building inspector for the Township, was

working on obtaining the PennDOT permits. Township Mgr. Ross has agreed to follow up with LTL in an effort to determine the status of Mr. Barkasi's activities and contacts with PennDOT.

Historical Commission Report:

Chairman Toman stated that they have decided to do an educational event rather than a fund raiser this year. Since the Township is named after Benjamin Franklin and in honor of his 300 birthday, the Commission has decided to organize a walking tour following Benjamin Franklin's footprints through historic Philadelphia. This event is being planned for Spring 2006. Chairman Whipple mentioned the need to make sure the Township's insurance covers such an activity. Ms. Toman will put a notice in the newsletter asking for volunteers to help in the planning of this event and others.

Ms. Toman referenced a copy of a letter to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) requesting their advice on what can be done with the historical structures on the Ford Farm. The Board suggested that the following minor changes be made to the letter: 1st sentence, delete the words "at no cost". In the last sentence of the last paragraph delete the word "speedy".

Ms. Toman stated that the Commission's meeting night has been changed from the 3rd Monday to the 3rd Tuesday every odd month.

Manager's Report:

Annual Report: Township Mgr. Ross referenced the Annual Report for Staff and Management which has been distributed to the Board members. The report outlines what has been accomplished during 2005. The Board expressed appreciation for the report. It is available for public review.

Stonegate Development: Mr. Ross referenced a letter from Mr. Chris Kendig in which Mr. Kendig expressed concern regarding speeding in Stonegate and requested that the Township install speed limit signs in the development. Mr. Ross summarized his concerns regarding Mr. Kendig's request as follows: It would be precedent setting for the Township to take on this responsibility and the Township has no way of enforcing the speed limits in Township developments. Also the incumbent legal and engineering cost to the Township of such an effort could be significant as well as the administrative burden. Mr. Ross further summarized his efforts in this regard including the accessing of the web site "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25" and suggesting that the Stonegate HOA could purchase signs from the web site and install them at strategic locations within the development. The legal speed limit in residential developments is 25 mph, however the State Police do not have the manpower to monitor it on a regular basis. It was suggested, that the HOA might inform the police of the individual suspected of being the chronic offender along with an idea of his/her comings and goings to encourage them to have a presence in the development at a particular time. Mr. Ross will follow up with these suggestions to Mr. Kendig.

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Planning and Zoning:

Planning Commission Report – January 5, 2006:

PC Chairman Eric Brindle presented the report of the January 5th meeting to the Board. The highlights are as follows:

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Reorganization: The PC agreed to continue meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month and elected Mr. Brindle as Chair, Mr. Olivier as Vice Chair and Mr. Squadron as Secretary.

Christens Property: The Christens Property Preliminary Plan was accepted for review.

Sketch Plan - Sardo Property: The applicant suggested putting the stormwater under the road which caused extended discussion of whether the road should be private or public. Also there will be a request for waiver of the cul-de-sac ordinance. The public/private road issue is being addressed by the applicant's attorney who will be communicating with the PC and the Township solicitor.

Final Plan - Marshall Property: There was extended discussion regarding the language in the notes on the plan regarding the sewage planning module. No resolution was reached. The applicant granted an extension and it will be revisited by the PC.

Ordinances - Mushroom Amendment: The PC recommended that the Board approve the amendment of Ordinance 2005-04.

Extension Letters:

Chairman Whipple moved that the following extension requests be approved for the following developments:

Mackie/Avignon - February 22, 2006
Banffshire Tract (12 Lot) - February 22, 2006
Marshall - March 1, 2006
Woods Edge - March 17, 2006
Crossan Creek - March 22, 2006
Ford Farm - March 22, 2006
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church - March 23, 2006
Frederic A. Lang Trust - March 23, 2006
Miller - March 31, 2006

Supervisor Teddy Price seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Planning Module - Banffshire: Chairman Whipple moved to accept an extension for the submission of the Planning Module for the Banffshire Tract (12 Lot) Plan through February 22, 2006. Supervisor Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Escrow Releases:

Happy Harry's - Escrow Release Nos. 1 and 2: There was discussion regarding the fact that neither of these Escrow Releases contains a request from the Engineer for a 10% retainage. Escrow Release No. 1 is recommended by Engineer John Theisen in the amount of \$27,400 and No. 2 is recommended in the amount of \$68,860. The Board's decision was to hold 10% in each case, i.e., \$2,740 and 6,886 respectively. If the 10% should not have been retained, those amounts will be released.

Chairman Whipple moved that the Board approve Happy Harry's Escrow Release No. 1 in the amount of \$27,400 less 10%. The Township Mgr. will confer with Township Engineer Theisen to determine if the 10% should be retained for the term of the project or be released. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Whipple moved that the Board approve Happy Harry's Escrow Release No. 2 in the amount of \$68,860 less 10%. The Township Mgr. will confer with Township

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Engineer Theisen to determine if the 10% should be retained for the term of the project or be released. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Franklin Chase - Escrow Release #6: The developer has requested \$284,762.19. Engineer Kohli recommends releasing \$255,385.97, allowing for the 10% retainage.

Chairman Whipple moved that the Board approve Franklin Chase Escrow Release #6 in the amount of \$255,385.97. Supervisor Bennett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

White Clay Knoll - Escrow Release No. 4: The developer has requested \$160,051.51. Engineer Kohli recommends releasing \$144,046.36, allowing for the 10% retainage.

Chairman Whipple moved that the Board approve White Clay Knoll's Release #4 in the amount of \$144,046.36. Supervisor Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ordinances:

Mushroom Substrate Processing Ordinance Amendment - Ordinance 2006-01: Township Mgr. Ross advised the Board that Ordinance 2006-01 amends two sections of Ordinance 2005-04. Section 2502.D (2) is amended to read that the minimum lot width at the street line shall not be less than 500 feet (as opposed to the 1,500 minimum proposed in the original ordinance) and Section 2503.D, which refers to the storage and passive composting of spent mushroom compost, is deleted in its entirety.

The PC has reviewed the amendment and recommends that it be approved by the BOS.

Chairman Whipple moved that the Board approve Ordinance 2006-01 amending Ordinance 2005-04, Section 2502-D(2), Article XXV and deleting Section 2503.D, Article XXV, Mushroom Substrate Processing. Supervisor Bennett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Zoning Officer/Bldg. Inspector Report :

Chairman Whipple summarized the highlights of the report stating that there were nine permits processed and seven building inspections.

Mgr. Ross pointed out that in the final paragraph of the report it is stated that Mr. Duane Brady has assumed the responsibilities as Franklin Township Zoning Officer and Building Inspector effective December 23, 2005 and that his work schedule has been changed from three days/week to two days/week - Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The report was accepted by the Board.

Route 896 Corridor Study:

There was no meeting in January and therefore no report.

Crossan Park - Use of athletic fields for 2006:

Township Mgr. Ross stated that it has become a consistent challenge to accommodate the number of leagues requesting field time at the Park while maintaining good turf management. He indicated that Park Mgr. Jeff Eastburn together with Supervisors Wilson and Bennett have been attempting to arrive at a solution that is fair to the requestors but yet restricts usage to the extent necessary to protect the fields. Due to the complexity of the situation, Mr. Eastburn is requesting guidance from the Board.

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Park Mgr. Eastburn provided the following background information for tonight's discussion:

- The organizations requesting field time are the following: Avon Grove Little League, Avon Grove Flag Football, White Clay Soccer League (WCS) and AGRA Soccer League.
- White Clay Soccer is a spin-off of AGRA which means that it is made up of parents and children who may have previously contributed to the maintenance of the fields.
- Flag Football uses the field on Sundays. It's been reported in local newspapers that the Flag Football League is one of the largest of its kind on the east coast of the United States. Therefore it would be very difficult for them to relocate a group that large.
- Avon Grove Little League has a 10 year contract with the Township which was executed in 1999. The reason for granting a 10 year contract was because the league agreed to perform regular maintenance and scheduled field improvements over the term of the contract and they have been fulfilling their part of the contract.
- There is a concentrated use in one area of the field because the soccer field is the outfield of the 90 ft. baseball field and flag football uses the same area.

The schedule that was in effect last year is as follows:

- Flag Football - Sundays
- AGRA Soccer League - Mondays and Wednesdays 5 p.m. to dusk during Spring and Summer; beginning 8/1 Mon - Friday 4 p.m. to dusk; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. finishing up around Thanksgiving.
- AG Little League - Tuesdays, Thursdays 9 p.m. to dusk and Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Friday - a day of rest.

The main conflict for the 2006 season appears to be between AGRA and White Clay Soccer. Mr. Eastburn is not aware of what actual days/times White Clay Soccer is requesting, however, the Township did receive a letter from the President of the league in September, 2005 asking the Township to consider his request for field time in 2006.

Mr. Eastburn has talked with all the organizations and has received verbal requests from all of them except White Clay Soccer. AGRA Soccer asks for more time than they receive but has indicated that they would be happy with the schedule they had last year. The Little League said they will notify the Township by February 2nd if they will be using our fields for 2006. Flag Football is assuming the same schedule as last year and would like to begin their 2006 schedule on March 19.

Mr. Eastburn advised that at this point there are two schools of thought on how to handle the requests and any conflicts.

1) Continue giving preference to the leagues that have previously signed contracts with the Township. 2) Implement a lottery system that provides the available times on the field vs. the names of the organizations requesting those times with a random drawing to make the final decision.

There was extended discussion regarding the options and variations of those options. At the end of that discussion Mr. Eastburn was directed to do the following:

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- Write to each organization directing them to submit in writing to the Township the minimum-use schedule that they can live with for Spring, Summer and Fall.
- Give a cut-off date by which their request must be received. If a request is not received by the deadline, the request will not be considered.
- Advise them that insurance certificates must be available and the \$1,000 fee must be paid before a contract can be signed.
- Advise them that the Township will determine what organizations are in conflict for the same dates/times and if those organizations cannot negotiate a compromise, the schedules will be set by the Township using a random lottery selection procedure which will be final.

Public Comment: Mr. Olivier asked for the status on the skate park. Mgr. Ross advised that the equipment has been sold.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Ross
Township Mgr./Sect.