

East Fallowfield Township
Planning Commission meeting
Unapproved February 15, 2016 minutes
6:40 pm

Attendees:

Dennis Crook, Chairman
Joe Perzan,
Richard Agatone
Garth Monaghan
Carol Kulp
Sirpa Cossaboon, East Fallowfield Resident

Not Present:

Jim Weeks
John Schwab

Dennis Crook called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Discussion on order of agenda items.

There was a discussion about the order of agenda items for the meeting. The Planning Commission decided to proceed with the meeting in the order below.

Discussion on Fluoridation Removal from Public Water in East Fallowfield

Dennis Crook announced that Brian Hassinger and Jennifer Milakeve, from PA American Water Company, were scheduled to attend tonight's meeting but were not able to make it due to ice and snow. PA American Water Company did provide a list of contacts in other townships that has public water service with their company. Mr. Crook stated he surveyed the Planning Commission members and three members said they are concerned about fluoride in the water and that it should be put on a ballot to survey resident opinions. Sirpa Cossaboon agreed with putting fluoridation on the ballot. Ms. Cossaboon spoke about the toxicity and health hazards of fluoride in the public water. She stated the ADA (American Dental Association) has propaganda out there stating that fluoridation is natural and safe. Garth Monaghan stated the residents that live in areas of public water are the most affected. He spoke about a past event in which the community pulled together and put a stop to the installation of a cell tower. Ms. Cossaboon stated she was willing to do her presentation at the local schools. She spoke about cooking, bathing and spraying our gardens with fluoridated water. Mr. Crook suggested linking the fluoride issue with the Penn State Extension Service for well water and that it would balance that study out. Ms. Cossaboon stated the water company agrees and the employees wear hazard material suits to go near the fluoride tanks because fluoride is so toxic.

Ms. Cossaboon and the Planning Commission discussed the best forum for her to do her presentation. The middle school and the park were discussed. Joe Perzan discussed the option of putting fluoridation on the ballot and he asked the question if this was a fair way to handle it since many residents have well water and are not impacted by the fluoridation of public water. Mr. Perzan posed the question of whether only those residents with public water should be answering the ballot question. Mr. Monaghan suggested using PA American Water Company's billing list to contact and target only the public water customers for opinion. Ms. Cossaboon stated there is a possibility that some of the residents with well water could convert to public water in the future. There was a discussion about how Ms. Cossaboon would accomplish this. She stated she is spending \$3,500 to install a fluoride filter in her home.

Ms. Cossaboon stated this is against the Nirenberg Code of Experimentation which states you can't experiment with chemicals on humans without informed consent. She stated there are many studies showing fluoride causes

cancer. She also discussed the Delany Clause. We are being forced to ingest toxic chemicals through the water supply without informed consent. There was a discussion about getting the Penn State Extension Service involved in this issue.

Dennis Crook stated PA American Water is willing to remove the fluoride from the water but they are not willing to lead the charge to change it. They don't feel it's a good thing to be added but their contract is with the DEP and is very old. Ms. Cossaboon stated we are paying to be poisoned. Ms. Cossaboon stated the water company reduced the amount of fluoride in 2011 due to toxicity concerns. She says it is the CDC and not the water company to be blamed.

Richard Agatone arrived at 6:50 pm.

Mr. Monaghan and Mr. Crook discussed calling the water company to determine how many residents/customers on are on public water. There was a discussion on what developments have public water. Mr. Crook stated the majority of the Township is on well water. There was a discussion about how to best contact residents about the fluoride if not putting this on a ballot.

Ms. Cossaboon reported she contacted a senator and fluoride is not state mandated. It is a carcinogenic, neurotoxin and causes endocrine destruction. It causes a lot of damage. There was a discussion/debate on whether the fluoride is being forced on residents or not. Joe Perzan asked Ms. Cossaboon what she is asking the Planning Commission to do. Ms. Cossaboon stated she does not know how to go about getting the fluoride removed from the public water. Mr. Crook discussed a previous discussion with Brian Hassinger regarding the procedure to remove the fluoride. Richard Agatone asked who has authority in the Township to contact other townships to request removal of fluoride. Dennis Crook stated they have not gotten that far in the process. Ms. Cossaboon stated she needs the Township involvement because she can't get the fluoride removed as an individual. Mr. Agatone suggested presenting the fluoride removal to the Board of Supervisors for their decision. He also said perhaps the water company will contact their customers regarding this issue. Mr. Monaghan stated the water company is in agreement with removing it but will not lead the movement. Dennis Crook suggested asking the water company to put out a flyer asking about resident interest and mail it with the water bill. Mr. Agatone said he didn't think they should ask the water company for a customer list. Ms. Cossaboon stated most people, including medical professionals, don't understand the chemicals of fluoridation. There was a discussion about fluoride causing health problems. Ms. Cossaboon commented on a spill of fluoridation chemicals in New York in which it drilled through the concrete.

The Planning Commission discussed the ballot option. They felt it should be a two-part question with the first question asking if the resident has public water. Ms. Cossaboon stated the residents need to be informed and suggested a town hall meeting in which it could be discussed. Mr. Monaghan suggested Ms. Cossaboon send a letter to newspapers for publication. Garth Monaghan also suggested contacting Senator Dinniman. Richard Agatone suggested contacting Harry Lewis. Dennis Crook talked about using Survey Monkey for getting public feedback. Mr. Monaghan suggested Ms. Cossaboon contact the Brook Crossing and Branford Village HOA's and speak at their meetings. Dennis Crook stated the purpose of having the PA American Water Company's representatives here tonight was to discuss the next steps. There was a discussion about the scope of this mission and how to move forward with other local townships.

Jim Durborow's Resignation Letter.

Dennis Crook announced the Planning Commission received a letter of resignation from Jim Durborow. Mr. Crook suggested sending Mr. Durborow a thank you letter for his 12 years of service on the Planning Commission.

Development Deadlines and Issues: Scott Farm, Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship, Harkins Farm, Field Crest, Fieldstone,

Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship: Dennis Crook announced the Township Solicitor transferred from Vince Pompo (Lamb McErlane) to Mike Crotty (Siana Bellwoar & McAndrew LLC). Mr. Crook discussed an email from Mike Crotty to Pani Martin, Township Treasurer, regarding the Bawa M. Fellowship Project. Mr. Crook stated Mike Crotty's email recommended that he recuse himself from participating as a member of the Planning Commission in review of the project due to conflict of interest. Mr. Crook stated whenever this project comes up, he will step down from participating as a Planning Commission member.

Development Deadline Tracking System: Dennis Crook stated there is no current system in the office to track the status of developments. He spoke about the old system of using the white board in the meeting room. He also discussed some research regarding development deadlines that he did at the County.

Permit Extension Act - Harkins Farm Development/Scott Farm Development/Fieldstone Development: Dennis Crook said the Harkins Farm Development was supposedly sold as a final plan but it is not recorded with the final plan was not recorded with the County. There was a discussion about where the Harkins Farm Development is located. Mr. Crook said he also found Scott Farm Development was not finalized/registered with the County. He also did some research on the Scott Farm Development and reviewed the stages of the development with Rob McLarnon. It was approved up to final but not included because of the moratorium. Mr. Crook stated the expiration for special exceptions and variances is six months from the date of authorization. Mr. Crook discussed the Permit Extension Act and how it impacted developments. He said he thinks the Scott Farm Development, Harkins Farm Development and Bawa M. Fellowship proceeded that date of the Permit Extension Act and would not fall under that Act when considering expiration. Mr. Crook stated they will put out an addendum to clarify the Permit Extension Act. Dennis Crook stated the Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance would have to be added. The status of the Fieldstone Development was discussed. Dennis Crook stated that in the Township Subdivision & Land Development Ordinances, the recording of a final plan is required within 90 days, otherwise it becomes null and void. There was a discussion about the Township notifying developers of this 90-day expiration and other approaching deadlines. Mr. Crook stated the Township has not previously done this. Dennis Crook stated he thinks the Township should start tracking the old developments from a certain point forward.

Garth Monaghan discussed the Planning Commission's responsibility in the subdivision land development process. After the Planning Commission reviews documents, they make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. That recommendation is reviewed by the Board and Solicitor and acted upon. After this point, the Planning Commission is done with the process. Mr. Monaghan stated this process broke down but not at the Planning Commission level because nothing came before us for review. Garth Monaghan posed the question of how many of these developments are going to really become active in July when the Permit Extension Act expires. Garth Monaghan briefly discussed the Planning Commission's involvement with the Harkins Farm Development and the Scott Farm Development.

There was also a short discussion regarding the Bawa M. Fellowship project and a court document from 2012 in which the Board of Supervisors sued the Township Zoning Hearing Board on its decision. There was a discussion about what stage the Bawa M. Fellowship Project is in. Garth Monaghan stated it is in conditional use. There was an issue with the design of the septic system and the well. The Commission also talked about a recent letter from Mike Crotty.

New Business:

Planning Commission Vacancy - The Planning Commission discussed the vacancy on the Commission. Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent, resume and attend a Planning Commission meeting. They also talked about the other commission and board vacancies.

Next Planning Commission meeting: March 7, 2016.

Adjournment.

MOTION: Dennis Crook made a motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 8:20 pm. Garth Monaghan seconded. VOTE: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Valaitis
Township Secretary