

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
September 21, 2023**

Call to Order: Chair Coless called the hybrid live/virtual meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Protocol for Hybrid Meetings: Chair Coless provided an overview of the protocols for public participation for members of the public attending the meeting virtually over Zoom.

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chair Coless, Vice Chair Darby, and Supervisors MacFarland, Neights (via Zoom) and Sorgini.
- b. Also in attendance were: E.J. Mentry, Township Manager; Lauren Gallagher, Township Solicitor; Paul Donnelly, Assistant Township Manager; Police Chief Mike Jackson; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director and Victoria Fan, Student Representative.

Chair's Comments

- Chair Coless announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting on September 21, 2023, to discuss personnel and legal matters and contract negotiations.
- Chair Coless read a "Bird Town Day" proclamation.

1) Presentations

- A. Bird Town Designation – Amber Minnick, Environmental Advisory Council Vice Chair, and Heidi Shiver – Ms. Shiver, president of Bird Town Pennsylvania, congratulated the Township on being accepted into the Bird Town Program and designated as a Bird Town. The program works in partnership with local municipalities to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people.
- B. Student representative Victoria Fan provided a report on Methacton School District news including: Healthier food offerings and new "quiet lunch area" option, success of the Windy Hill Café, and introduction of Color Wars competition among the grade levels at the high school.

2) Consent Agenda

- A. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including moving the meeting minutes of September 7, 2023, into the record and approving payment of bills in the amount of \$467,893.54 and an escrow release for 35 Evansburg Road in the amount of \$363,172.00. Vice Chair Darby seconded the motion.
 - a. There was no public comment.
 - b. The motion *passed* 5-0.

3) Public Hearing –

- A. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to open the hearing for the Conditional Use Application 2825 Ridge Pike. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - a. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - b. Solicitor Gallagher said she had received a request from the applicant's attorney to continue the hearing to October 19, 2023

B. **MOTION:** Chair Coless made a motion to table the matter to a date certain of October 19th.
Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.

- a. There was no public comment.
- b. The motion *passed* 5-0.

C. **MOTION:** Chair Coless made a motion to close the hearing for the Conditional Use Application – 2825 Ridge Pike. Supervisor Sorgini seconded.

- a. There was no public comment.
- b. The motion *passed* 5-0.

4) Old Business

A. Discussion of Traffic Impact Fee Advisory Committee

- a. Mr. Mentry asked for feedback from the board regarding the formation of a Traffic Impact Fee Advisory Committee (TIFAC) which must occur before the Act 209 study can begin. Formation of the committee will require a resolution approved by the Board. The resolution adoption date will start the 18-month clock that the Municipalities Planning Code permits to complete the study.
- b. There was discussion regarding staff recommendations for the committee and supervisor involvement in the process. There was consensus to reach out to those who served on the committee for the previous update in 2009 and to seek some new members.
- c. In response to a question from Supervisor Neights, Mr. Mentry said the advisory committee would be giving recommendations that would be voted on by the Board of Supervisors at public hearings. The updated impact fee would be adopted by ordinance.
- d. Supervisor MacFarland suggested that the committee include someone who had served on the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

5) New Business

A. Consideration of request for waiver of fence standards – 3758 Ridge Pike

- a. Mr. Mrozinski said the property owner is requesting the waiver to permit the installation of a 6-foot, solid-style fence in the front of the property. He said there are no sight distances issues created by the installation. It was noted there will be plantings in front of the fence.
- b. In response to a question from Chair Coless, the homeowner, Eric Roberts, said the purpose of the solid style fence was to help with road noise.
- c. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland, seconded by Supervisor Sorgini, made a motion to grant the request for waiver of fence standards.
- d. There was no public comment.
- e. The motion *passed* 5-0.

6) Announcements/Meetings

- The Township office will close at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22 for staff training and development.

- “A Taste of Lower Providence” fundraiser for the Lower Providence Community Library will be held September 23 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the library
- The Community Yard Sale will be held September 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A list of participating homes can be found on the Township’s Facebook page, at [lptrec.com](https://www.facebook.com/lptrec.com) or picked up at the Township Building.
- Planning Commission – September 27 at 7:00 p.m.- *Cancelled*
- Zoning Hearing Board – September 28 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Montgomery County Hero Fund “5K Beers & BBQ” fundraiser will be held September 30 on the Lower Providence Fire Department fairgrounds. Information at montgomerycountyherofund.org
- The Township’s 35th annual Fall Festival will be held in Eagleville Park on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Volunteers are sought for the “Wall That Heals” exhibit, the traveling Vietnam Memorial replica which will be hosted by Upper Providence Township Oct. 26-29. Visit www.uprov-montco.org for details.

7) Board Comments

- a. Supervisor Sorgini spoke about library fundraiser and thanked library board member Shannon Chase for her work on the event.
- b. Vice Chair Darby provided an update on Parks and Recreation events.

8) Courtesy of Floor

- a. Ray Lotfi, Township resident, commented on the inability of residents to pay taxes online.. He also asked about the possibility of reducing grass cutting done by the Township in areas that do not require it, fostering more healthy natural ecosystems.

9) Adjournment

- a. **MOTION:** Vice Chair Darby, seconded by Supervisor Sorgini, made a motion to adjourn. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: **October 5, 2023**
 October 19, 2023

Budget Workshops **October 3 at 4:30 p.m.**
 October 23 at 4:30 p.m. (*as needed*)
 October 30 at 4:30 p.m. (*as needed*)