MINUTES

MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 26, 2017

MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MEETING ROOM B – 3:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

<u>Members</u> <u>Other</u>

Michelle BairLauren Kershner, The SentinelJason CunninghamBrent Musser, Axis SurveyingDan DunmireJody Carter, Axis Surveying

Dave Pennebaker Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County Planning

Kent SpicherSteve Dunkle, CommissionerNeal ShawverKevin Kodish, CommissionerJim SpendiffLisa Nancollas, Commissioner

Kay Semler Dan Fitzpatrick, NFIP via teleconference

Cyle Vogt

Staff

Bill Gomes, Director
James Lettiere, CD Administrator/Assistant
Director
Chastity Fultz, Office/Grants Manager

Call to Order

Dan Dunmire, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Record of Public Attendance

Dan reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kay Semler made a motion to approve the minutes from December's meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Spendiff. All members voted aye.

Election of Officers

As provided for in the Planning Commission Bylaws, Dan turned the meeting over to Bill Gomes to temporarily run the meeting in order to conduct the election of officers.

Bill welcomed Jason Cunningham and Cyle Vogt as the newest members of the Planning Commission. According to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the alternate member, Cyle Vogt, will be able to vote since not all members are present.

Bill asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jim Spendiff nominated Kay Semler to serve as Chairman. Dan Dunmire seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All members voted aye to have Kay Semler serve as Chairman.

Bill then requested nominations for Vice Chairman. Kay Semler nominated Dan Dunmire for position of Vice Chairman. Jim Spendiff seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All members voted aye to have Dan serve as Vice Chairman.

Bill next asked for nominations for Secretary. Kay Semler motioned to elect Neal Shawver as Secretary. Dan Dunmire seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All members voted aye to have Neal serve as Secretary. The meeting was turned back over to Kay.

State Flood Insurance Program

Bill Gomes introduced Dan Fitzpatrick, the state National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator. Mr. Fitzpatrick was originally scheduled at the December meeting, but was ill. Unfortunately, he showed up for the meeting on Wednesday, January 25th, but he was able to commit to participating via teleconference. Mr. Fitzpatrick updated the Planning Commission shortly after legislation was passed in Congress previously.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the reformed legislation in 2014 was a result of the financial situation placed on the NFIP due to Hurricanes Katrena and Sandy. The subsidy provisions had to be altered because the program is supposed to be self-supporting in that premiums paid to cover claims paid out. Approximately 43% of policies in the program have basements, which would be rated at having the first floor being compared to the base flood elevation. The phasing out of subsidies will lead to increases of anywhere from 5% to 18% annually. Letters will be sent upon policy renewal explaining the increase.

One option property owners have is to compare the base flood elevation to the lowest floor elevation. An elevation certificate can be obtained and this can save a significant amount of money. The certificate does not expire for the structure. If the elevation certificate does not result in lower premiums, there are other ways to lower premiums, such as moving all electrical service above the base flood elevation. If there is a basement, utilities would need to be removed and it would have to be filled in to make a crawl space.

Private market flood insurance is also an option. At one time, this was very expensive, but there are now more insurers coming into Pennsylvania. The website in the packet of information distributed (https://www.insurance.pa.gov/Coverage/Pages/Flood.aspx) can provide more information. It lists the agents as private, those licensed to do business in Pennsylvania, as well as information on those agents not licensed in Pennsylvania, but approved.

The buyout program is only available after a disaster and comes from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The program requires flood insurance to be carried from NFIP. If a property owner leaves NFIP, continuity of coverage is lost and it is very expensive to go back into the NFIP at a future date.

The Community Rating System could also save on rates if the municipality is active. This is a FEMA voluntary program. The municipality must adopt an ordinance to participate. Once they apply, they must document things the municipality is doing to exceed minimum standards. Each activity earns points for discounts up to 45% savings.

A homeowner can challenge the FEMA maps as well. FEMA takes aerial photos, which only shows rooftops in the flood plain. If these buildings were to be viewed horizontally, they may not be in the flood plain. A surveyor must do an elevation certificate to show the lowest adjacent grade to the structure to determine if the structure is higher than base flood elevation. If it is, the property owner will receive a letter of map amendment (LOMA) stating the structure is out of the flood plain. This can be done for a single structure with electronic filing. Multiple structures or plots of land must be submitted via hard copy. Also, if a dam is removed and a study is not shared with FEMA, the properties affected are not removed from the system.

Mr. Fitzpatrick clarified that a LOMA (letter of map amendment) is for a single structure and does not change the map. A LOMR (letter of map revision) would be used for larger projects such as a subdivision or land development and changes the map. This is more expensive and requires an engineer and hydrologic and hydraulic studies. This could show a cost savings to the developer in the end. A CLOMR (conditional letter of map revision) is filed at the beginning of a project and the LOMR is filed at the end of the project.

A question was raised as to whether or not the certifications are filed and searchable. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the FEMA map service shows a flood hazard layer, which shows locations on the map where certifications are filed. You can click on this and see the certification. He is not sure when this began, but believes that when the maps were updated, the certifications were updated as well. This can be found under www.msc.fema.gov.

A surveyor in the audience asked how Zone A is determined since there is no elevation supplied on the maps. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the FEMA Map Information Center can be contacted to obtain the elevation. There is often scientific backup for Zone A elevations.

Mr. Fitzpatrick offered his availability for one-on-one assistance if anyone needed it.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

Three plans were submitted to the committee for review, all under Municipal Ordinance. The plans included William J. McNitt III (*Armagh Township*); Derek A. & Amy E. Houtz (*Derry Township*); and Robert M. Welham Jr. (*Lewistown Borough*). One plan was not reviewed by the by the Subdivision Review Committee, which was the Welham project, because the plan came in late and the Planning and Development Department was able to accommodate the request since only two plans had been received prior to this. The overall tract which involves Black's Hospital was surveyed over a year ago. This subdivision involving 0.2623 acres will be sold by the county to Mr. Welham and resolve a county issue.

Jim Lettiere stated that he had received responses from the surveyor today on the William McNitt plan and asked the Planning Commission for time to verify the comments and plans to make sure everything was taken care of. All waiver requests will go through the municipality.

Jim Spendiff made a motion to approve the comments of the Welham and McNitt plans under municipal ordinance while allowing Jim additional time to review the revised comments on the McNitt plan. Dave Pennebaker seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Jim Lettiere then received revised plans for the Houtz plan at the meeting and requested additional time to review them. Dan Dunmire motioned to amend the approval of the comments to include allowing Jim additional time to review the Houtz plan. Kent Spicher seconded the motion. All members voted aye with Jason Cunningham abstaining from the vote on the Houtz plan.

Armagh Township (Municipal Ordinance)

Name of Plan: McNitt, William J. III

File Number: 2017-01-001 Tax Map #: 12-33-0100 Municipality: Armagh Township

Applicant Name: Carter, Joab M. Land Owner Name: McNitt, William J. III

Plan Preparer: AXIS Professional Surveying, LLC

Plan Summary:

The plan narrative should be clearer that the plan proposes to subdivide one lot (Lot 1) of 150.3 acres with a residue of _____ acres. Also the residue should be labeled with the tax parcel numbers and acreage balance.

*The Axis Surveying representative provided revised plan dated January 26, 2017 that clarifies the project narrative.

Administrative

The subdivision application form should be signed by the municipality.

The landowner's signature needs to be on the subdivision application form.

Clean & Green / Agriculture

The parcel is enrolled in the Clean and Green program. The applicant or landowners should be aware rollback taxes can be applied in some subdivision situations, and if they have any questions, they should contact the Mifflin County Assessment Office for more information.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the landowner is aware and will be in contact with county assessment. A clean and green note has been added to the plan.

Floodplain / Wetlands

Is there is a floodplain associated with Havice Creek? If so, it should be noted on the plan. As noted in general Note 4, the property is not located in the 100 year floodplain.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated there is no flood plain associated with Havice Creek.

Topographic information

Topographical contours at vertical intervals should be displayed on the plan in accordance with the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, (Article 6 Section 6.202. a.7.).

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated they will be requesting a waiver to this provision.

Soils

According to the County GIS files, some portion of this property appears to have hydric soils. Hydric soils can indicate the presence of wetlands. The hydric soils information should be shown on the plan.

*The January 26, 2017 revised plans lists the hydric soils.

Setback Lines

The setback lines should be shown on the plan as prescribed in the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Article 6 Section 6.302. a.10.).

*The Axis surveying representative indicated the setbacks are listed on the plan but not shown as no new development is being proposed.

Right-of Way Widths

Based upon the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the right-of-way width of Havice Valley Road is substandard (Table 1).

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated Havice Valley Road is a forest road (Bald Eagle State Forest) and as per conversations with the Department of Forestry, the listed right-of-way is sufficient.

Cartway Widths

The cartway width of Havice Valley Road is only 12 feet and there is a concern that its width is not adequate for two-way vehicular traffic. The entire frontage of the subject parcel is located on a portion of Havice Valley Road, which is designated a state forest road. This should be labeled on the plan. The plan notes this section of Havice Valley Road is a township right-of-way.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated Havice Valley Road is a forest road and is a seasonal/recreational use road. No improvements will be made.

Deed Restrictions and Easements

Deed restrictions and easements associated with the property, if any, should be provided in accordance with (Article 3 Sections 6.302.a.6. and 6.302.b.7.) of the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Plan Note #5 only mentions possible easements or restrictions without verifying this information.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated there are no deed restrictions or easements and note 5. has been added to the plan reflecting the same.

DEP Sewage Planning Module

A copy of the DEP "Request for Planning Waiver and Non-Building Declaration" form needs to be provided.

*A copy of the planning module has been provided.

Sewage Service

If there is any on-lot sewer service on the residue, it should be labeled on the plan (Section 6.302.a.10. of the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance).

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the existing on lot sewage is labeled on the plan. There is no on lot sewage proposed or on the residual.

Water Service

The water supply location should be noted on the plan as prescribed in the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Sections 3.213 and 6.202.a.10.). If the water source is off site, there should be evidence of an easement and right-of-way agreement on record and so noted on the plan. This information is particularly important if the water supply serves more than one household. The surveyor will note both are off site and make reference to easement/right-of-way agreements on record.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated there is no on or off-site water source.

Signature Blocks on Plan

The Mifflin County Review Certificate on the plan is incorrect. If a copy of the certificate is required, one can be obtained from the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department.

*The Axis Surveying representative added the correct Mifflin County Review Certificate.

Features

All significant natural features, including swales, ditches, trees, water courses, sinkholes, rock out-cropping, etc. should be shown on the plan in accordance with the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, (Article 3 Section 6.202.a.9.).

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated all natural features are depicted on the plan.

All significant man-made features, including water and sewer lines, petroleum lines, electric poles, telephone lines, fire hydrants, dumps, railroad tracks, fence lines, historic features, culverts, etc. should be shown on the plan in accordance with the Armagh Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, (Article 3 Section 6.202.a.10.).

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated all man made features are depicted on the plan and a waiver will be requested as no new development is being proposed and the property is located in a forest.

E & S / Stormwater

Since the building on the plan is on the other side of Havice Creek, has a stream crossing permit been issued from DEP?

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the bridge is pre-existing and has been in place for a long period of time.

Derry Township (Municipal Ordinance)

Name of Plan: Houtz, Derek A. & Amy E.

File Number: 2017-01-002 Tax Map #: 16-01-0112IA Municipality: Derry Township

Applicant Name: Houtz, Derek A. & Amy E. Land Owner Name: Houtz, Derek A. & Amy E. Plan Preparer: AXIS Professional Surveying, LLC

Plan Summary:

Derek Houtz is proposing to develop his property, TMP 16-001-0112IA, with the addition of a chiropractic office, and potentially a future residential apartment. The commercial use and residential use would be proposed in the same building structure. Historically and currently, no buildings exist on the property. The site is currently maintained in meadow, woods and/or agriculture crop. The project site is addressed as Nolan Drive Extension, Lewistown, PA, 17044, and is Lot #2 of a Final Subdivision Plan for Steven Stimely (Plan Inst. No. 2014-002229).

Administrative

The subdivision application form should be signed by the municipality.

The landowner's signature needs to be on the subdivision application form.

*As of January 31, 2017 the signed application from the municipality and the land owner has not been provided.

Subdivision Information

Total acreage is only shown in the legend but not on display on the plan. The existing driveway shown on Sheet S1 - 1 does not appear to line up with the proposed driveway extension shown on Sheet S1 - 2.

*The revised plans dated January 26, 2017 shows the total acreage on the display on sheet S1-1.

Floodplain / Wetlands

A flood note is listed on Sheet S1 - 1.

Setback Lines

The setback lines should be shown on the plan in accordance with the Derry Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Part 4 Section 403.2K).

*The Axis Surveying representative provided revised plans dated January 26, 2017 that show the setbacks.

Right-of Way Widths

Does the 50 foot right-of-way for Nolan Drive extend onto this property?

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated yes.

Cartway Widths

Based upon the Derry Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the cartway width for Nolan Drive Extended is substandard (Section 504). It shows 18 feet and then appears to go to 24 feet.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the twenty-four (24) foot cartway is contained entirely on the Houtz parcel and the portion of the right-of-way that fronts the subject property is a private 50' right-of-way.

PennDOT HOP / Municipal Driveway Permit

A municipal driveway permit is required, and a copy should be provided to the Derry Township Planning Commission.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the driveway is existing and has been utilized in the past to service previous commercial uses. A driveway permit can be provided to Derry Township if deemed necessary.

Deed Restrictions and Easements

According to the surveyor, there are easements as referenced on plan instrument 2014-2229 and are contained in the deed.

DEP Sewage Planning Module

If the project is to utilize public sewer, a DEP Component 3, or Exemption from Sewage Planning (Mailer), should be provided.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the Component 3 Planning Module has been submitted to DEP and a copy of the approval will be provided to the Township. However, a copy has not been provided to the County.

Signature Blocks on Plan

The Mifflin County Review Certificate should be on the plan. If a copy of the certificate is required, one can be obtained from the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department.

*The Axis Surveying representative submitted revised plans on January 26, 2017 with the correct review certificate.

Zoning

Sheet S1 - 1 lists zoning as General Commercial (GC) yet Sheet S1 - 2 lists it as Countryside, which should be corrected. Also GC Zoning does not appear to allow residential uses which are being proposed. This needs to be reviewed by the Derry Township Zoning Officer, since it would likely involve a variance request.

*The Axis Surveying representative indicated the typo of Sheet S1-2 has been revised. They also stated they anticipate discussing the proposed uses with the zoning office at the Township planning commission meeting.

Land Development

The applicant should consult the local Fire Marshall to see if new fire hydrants will be required and included with the plan submission.

*The Axis Surveying representative acknowledges the recommendation.

E & S / Stormwater

A general NPDES permit and an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan are required. **Other Comments:**

- 1. Will there be a dumpster? If so, where will it be located and will it be screened?
- 2. Will there be parking lot lighting? If so, it should be depicted on the plan.

- 3. Although Sheet S1 4 lists seed mixtures and species for erosion control and conservation plantings, it is not clear if this plan meets (Section 314 Landscaping and Screening Requirements) of the Township Zoning Ordinance.
- 4. What are the AM and PM peak generator trips for this use based on the ITE Manual? Would the increased traffic adversely impact the roadways surrounding this project?
- 5. Is there any off-site or on-site signage proposed? If so, it must comply with (Section 315 Outdoor Signs) of the Derry Township Zoning Ordinance.
- 6. What is the width of the gravel drive depicted with dashed lines that appear to abut the building? Is this gravel drive for private ingress and egress?
- *The Metz Engineering representative indicated the gravel road will be twelve (12) feet and is meant to serve the proposed residential apartment as part of the project.

Derry Township (Municipal Ordinance)

Name of Plan: Welham, Jr., Robert M.

File Number: 2017-01-003 Tax Map #: 0719-0303/0205 Municipality: Derry Township

Applicant Name: Welham, Jr., Robert J Land Owner Name: Welham, Jr., Robert J. Plan Preparer: Wright Land Surveying

Plan Summary:

The purpose of this plan is to subdivide Lot A from Mifflin County. Proposed Lot A will go to Robert M. and Heidi M. Welham and will be a lot addition to their existing property.

Review Comments (List from Review Committee):

Basic Plan Information

The name of the registered Surveyor responsible for the plan should be on the plan, including an appropriate registered professional's seal.

*The revised plans provided to the County on January 25, 2017 lists the name of the Professional Surveyor and the January 24, 2017 letter from the EADS Group states the Surveyor's seal will be affixed to the final plan for recording.

Subdivision Information

It appears based on the PA Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law, Act of May 23, 1945 P.L. 913, No. 367 CL 63 Section 2. Definitions (d) (e) and (j) that a professional engineer may not practice land surveying unless licensed and registered as a professional land surveyor. There is no certified surveyor stamp on the plan.

*The revised plans provided to the County on January 25, 2017 lists the name of the Professional Surveyor and the January 24, 2017 letter from the EADS Group states the surveyors seal will affixed to the final plan for recording.

Property boundary information should be shown for the entire property, including tracts 1 and 3 of the County Property. If survey data is not available, this information could be supplied via the deed description and could be shown on an inset map in accordance with the Lewistown Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Part 7 Section 7.302 A.5, A.7., A.9., and A.12.).

- *After receipt of the revised plans from the EADS Group Inc., it appears the residual acreage was not accurately adjusted after the lot addition of Lot A to Lot 1. The boundary survey completed by the EADS Group Inc. dated May 6, 2015 lists Tract 2 as having 1.16 acres. The revised plans after the lot addition of Lot A to Lot 1 lists the residual as having 1.16 acres.
- *The revised plans show the property boundary information for Tracts 1 and 3.

Floodplain / Wetlands

As noted in General Project Notes: A. and B. the parcels do not lie within the 100 year flood plain or designated wet land.

Soils

There are no soils information on the plan.

*The revised plans lists the soil types.

Right-of Way Widths

Does the right-of-way widths of Buena Vista Circle and Summit Manor meet the Borough's road provisions?

*The January 24, 2017 letter from the EADS Group states a fifty (50') right-of-way exists on Summit Manor and appears to meet the Borough requirements.

Based upon the Municipality Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the right-of-way width of Buena Vista Circle should be shown on the plan in accordance with the Borough of Lewistown's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Part 7 Section 7.202 A.11.).

*The January 24, 2017 letter from the EADS Group states Buena Vista Circle is a private roadway on County property and a public-right-of-way does not exist.

Cartway Widths

Does the cartway widths of Buena Vista Circle and Summit Manor meet the Borough's road provisions?

*The January 24, 2017 letter from the EADS Group states the Summit Manor cartway is twenty-nine (29') feet wide and appears to meet the Borough requirements. Buena Vista Circle is a private roadway on County property that does not fall under Borough requirements, therefore, it does not require a minimum cartway.

Deed Restrictions and Easements

According to the General Project Notes: C., there are no known deed restrictions or easements associated with the property.

DEP Sewage Planning Module

A copy of the DEP "Request for Planning Waiver and Non-Building Declaration" form needs to be provided.

*The declaration form has been provided by the EADS Group.

Lot Addition

A lot addition statement should be noted on the plan stating the following on the plan:		
"Lot # consisting of acres is to be added onto land owned by	Lot # _	is a lot
addition and shall become an integral part of the property owned by	. Lot #	_ is not a
building lot and cannot be maintained or developed as a separate individual lot" in acco	rdance wit	the the
Lewistown Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Part 7 Section 7.302	A.25.).	

*The revised plans provided to the County has the lot addition statement on the plan.

Lot A only lists a linkage with the Welham property instead of a lot number. The balance of the County property should be listed as the residual.

A lot addition is considered a consolidation and therefore, results in the creation of two new lot configurations. Lot consolidation meets the definition of a subdivision according to the Municipalities Planning Code. Under these circumstances new deeds must be developed as part of the property transfer process and adequate information must be available in order to develop an accurate property description. The parent and recipient lots will still meet the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requirements. Property boundary information should be shown for the entire property. Currently, no boundary information is provided for Tracts 1 and 3 of the County property. If survey data is not available, this information could be supplied via the deed description and could be shown on an inset map in accordance with the Lewistown Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Part 7 Section 7.302 A.27.).

*The revised plans provided to the County contain boundary information for tracts 1 and 3.

Other Comments:

*At the February 1, 2017 Lewistown Borough Planning Commission meeting it was pointed out that there are several spelling errors on the plan. The first is under Project Narrative whereas Whelham is spelled wrong and should be Welham, the second is under Utility Data: whereas Verison is spelled wrong and should be spelled as Verizon.

*Also the signature line for Lewistown Borough should include the word Council after the word Borough.

Public Comment

None

^{*}The revised plans lists the remaining portion of tract 2 as the residual.

Other Business or Comments

Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee:

The Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee met January 25th. There was a lot of good discussion and attendance included Verizon, Comcast, Nittany Media and Penelec. Discussion included a Facebook page an unhappy customer created. They contacted Derry Township who in turn contacted the Planning and Development Department. Pole connection issues were also discussed. Surveys will be finalized next month of approximately 2,000 residents and 800 businesses. The business survey will be sent electronically through the Chamber of Commerce's email distribution list. The USDA was in attendance and discussed a loan program that could be utilized in the future. The committee is not eligible for a grant. The loans are issued to corporations and municipal governments, but not individuals.

Juniata River Trail:

Bill recently met with DCNR and Scott Welham of Lewistown Borough to discuss possibly linking a grant with DCED. The DCED grant that has been received may not be enough to construct the trail. The DCNR grant will be due in April and will be coordinated with Lewistown Borough.

Annual Dinner:

Bill tried to book the Secretary of Transportation, but was unsuccessful. He is now trying to book the Secretary of Education and may be able to get the Deputy Secretary.

Juniata River Boat Launch:

The extension was granted for the National Park Service grant. The permit is still in limbo. Bill is hoping to hear by the end of January.

Other:

Bill has been discussing many county bridges with the Commissioners. There has also been further discussion regarding natural gas. Dave Pennebaker asked if Bill has heard anything from Volkswind and he has not. Neal Shawver asked if there were any updates on the Corkins' property, but Bill has not heard anything.

Other questions raised were the Derry Heights project and the proposed traffic light at Calkin's Automotive. An ARC grant and ARLE grant are under consideration, but no other information is available at this time. Bill also reminded the commission about the recent award of \$608,800 for the Monument Square Phase V Streetscape project.

Adjournment

Upon no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. upon a motion by Dan Dunmire, which was seconded by Dave Pennebaker.