

The stated Working Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, August 8, 2024 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, LANEY-MARTIN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, YOUNG GERTZ, SPIEGELMAN, BOLE, SCHREIBER, VAHEY, HECKER
Excused: Commissioner BOWMAN

Also Present: Township Manager Manfredi
Township Solicitor Clarke

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to approve the minutes from the Working Session of July 11, 2024.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of SD-21-03 – 365 Cedar Road Final Major Subdivision Land Development Plan:

Mr. Larry Byrne, Project Engineer, representing the applicant, Mr. Paul Yanessa, who was also present, said this project received preliminary plan approval from the Board of Commissioners back in January 2023 and we spent the past year obtaining the required permits for the project, which are the NPDES permit from the Montgomery County Conservation District, PennDOT permit, and sewer planning. Also, a detailed executive summary of the project has been prepared by Mr. Hassan, Township Engineer.

The final plan as presented shows a cul-de-sac with seven lots, and the applicant received several review letters from Township's consultants as well as Township staff and the applicant will comply with comments as listed. Also, the applicant received a recommendation for approval from the Township's Planning Commission at their meeting this past July.

Mr. Hassan said the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the preliminary plan on January 23, 2023, and subsequently, there were several renditions and modifications made to the plan to comply with all aspects of the code, and then the Planning Commission recommended approval of the final plan on July 23, 2024.

The applicant has requested five waivers: Section 146-11. A (4) – Property Identification Plan; Section 146-11. B (3) – Existing Features Plan; Section 146-25 D – Curb; Section 146-33. D – Drainage Size, Grade and Type; and Section 146-43 C (3) (a) – Grading for Drainage.

He is satisfied with the plan as presented and recommended the Board of Commissioners may wish to move it forward for consideration at their next meeting.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner DiPlacido said he is happy that this development project will be getting started, and he thanked Mr. Yanessa for having community meetings with the residents and answering their questions as well as Mr. Hassan who assisted in those community meetings answering questions from the neighbors. He is happy to have owner-occupied residences in his area and cannot wait to meet his new neighbors.

President Hecker asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that she has a list of things that are irregular and wrong about this application. Regarding shortened turning radius for emergency vehicles, there is no way that should have been granted. Giving variances only to “nice people” is a set up for “corruption,” and in this case the owner created the problem, so no variance should have been made, and she would appreciate it if this would be turned down and have those things investigated.

Commissioner Zappone said expert engineers, planners, attorneys and project engineers review plans for these projects and the ward Commissioner had meetings with his residents and they like it, and it is a good thing. We do our job, meet with our residents, and get a plan of action together, so to be called “corrupt” constantly is offensive and ridiculous.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary