

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
June 9, 2022
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Borough Office in the Green Lane Fire Company building. The meeting was called to order by President Brian Carpenter at 7 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Brian Carpenter, Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Members Jack Findley, Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Wolfe, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino, Solicitor David Comer, Engineer Joe Carlin and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Jonathan Guntz to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2022, Council meeting. Second by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Wolfe congratulated the local high school graduates and commented on the frequency of accidents at Park Road and Route 29.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: None received.

VISITORS: Local business owners Tom and Kelly Weiss; Engineering Consultant Randy Waltermeyer from Traffic Planning and Design.

- Mr. Waltermeyer presented the draft report on the "Activating Green Lane: Active Transportation and Revitalization Plan" that was funded by a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI). The goal of the two-year project was to develop a plan to improve active transportation in Green Lane with connections to the regional trail network while simultaneously revitalizing the Borough. (An electronic version of the draft report is available on the Borough's website at www.greenlaneborough@comcast.net.)
- The recommendations for the plan are the result of a very successful public survey (about 83 Borough residents and 169 responses total), steering committee involvement, consultation with Montgomery County officials, traffic studies, market analyses of local and regional economies, in-person inspections of Borough, and coordination with Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Project and others.
- Some recommendations in the draft plan include:
 - Traffic-slowing measures on Main Street including formal striping of legal on-street parking spaces, which would also provide more parking for the three empty business properties on Main Street.
 - Adding speed-display board to slow traffic on Route 29 and Main Street.

- Zoning ordinance changes.
- Possible new businesses such as an ice cream shop or outdoor outfitters.
- Share way marking on Walnut Street.
- Resurfacing and paving of Fire Company parking lot to use as public parking in cooperation with the Fire Company
- Provide a more direct and safer connection to Perkiomen Trail in the Borough with crossing at Walnut Street and a new pedestrian bridge crossing the Macoby Creek behind the Route 29 properties.
- Installing observation platform/fishing pier to County's property along the creek, thus drawing more trail users to patronize businesses in the Borough.
- Councilman Godshall asked about funding for implementation of the plan and was concerned about providing the necessary matches to any grants. He said funding is needed for road repairs in the Borough. Mr. Waltermyer said the grant funding for trails and roads come from different buckets, and there are other sources that could provide matches.
- Mr. Godshall also expressed concerns about a bridge surviving the flooding that can occur in the Borough. Mr. Waltermyer said there are structures that are designed to survive such flooding.
- There are several options for placement of a bridge across the creek if any of these plans are implemented.
- Mayor Wolfe asked who would be responsible for maintaining a bridge. Mr. Waltermyer said that would have to be coordinated with the County parks department.
- Mr. Waltermyer said sources of grants will be included in the final report.
- Feasibility studies will be needed before the project can proceed.
- Council will consider a resolution to approve the plan at the next meeting on July 14, 2022.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor David Comer

- A motion was made by Councilman Guntz to pass a resolution regarding Act 108 changes to the Workers' Compensation plan. The changes provide for a separate designation for non-fire-responding members of a fire company, thus lowering the coverage rate for those volunteers. For example, the coverage rate for the Fire Company's bookkeeper would be lower than for the fire fighters who respond to the scene of a fire. Councilman Godshall seconded the motion. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The solicitor reviewed the process for selling the property at 303 Main Street, a vacant lot. After the property lines and legal description are confirmed, bid documents will be prepared and the request for bids be advertised. A motion was made by Councilman Godshall to authorize the Solicitor to confirm the legal description of the property and approve the Resolution to prepare bid documents and to advertise a request for bids. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered.
- A civil complaint will be filed against the owner of 417 Walnut Street for continuing violations.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (report on file)

- A hearing regarding violations that had been filed against the owner of 120 Gravel Pike (Rockwell's) has been rescheduled for July 20, 2022, due to a conflict at the court. The property owner was cited for an additional seven days of violations.
- A hearing was also rescheduled due to a conflict at the court for June 15, 2022, regarding a civil complaint against the owners of 750 Lumber Street for ongoing zoning violations.
- Information was provided to the property owner at 301 Main St. who is contemplating a no-impact home business.
- Information was provided to the property owner at 505 Green St. about a possible timber harvest.
- The Mayor asked the Code Enforcement officer to check on an unregistered car on Second Street.
- Council President Carpenter asked the Code Enforcement officer to see if a permit was required for a roof being built on Fifth Street.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report on file.)

- The Hurricane Ida Hazard Mitigation Grant Program home buyout application was submitted on time. PEMA is advancing the application for the individual residences into the FEMA system. PEMA requested additional information on the apartments and adjacent lot owned by McCuskins Properties LLC on April 24, which was provided on April 26.
- The Borough will not pursue the RPA Grant.
- Route 29 Sidewalk project is proceeding. Technical questions and comments are being negotiated with PennDOT regarding the handicapped ramps. The engineer is awaiting acknowledgments of notification receipt from the residents.
- A grant application for the resurfacing of Green Street was submitted to the DCED (Horse Development and Gaming Act) Local Share Account Grant program. Prior year awards appear to have been announced anywhere from late May to late July.
- The engineer has completed a Borough-wide pavement evaluation that includes inspection of road conditions and ranking by condition. A follow up meeting with President Carpenter to finalize scope of repairs is required.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Councilman Jack Findley said there was nothing new to report.

SEWER AUTHORITY: The Authority's administrator is retiring.

ROAD COMMITTEE: The Mayor asked about two storm grates that need inspection or cleaning in the Borough.

PARK COMMITTEE: A bid of \$1,500 was received from Buso Tree and Landscaping for removal of six ash trees and one maple tree in Isaac Smith Park. President Carpenter said the park committee, including members from the Fire Company, must approve acceptance of the bid.

Green Lane Borough Council Special Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT: Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Godshall to adjourn and seconded by Councilman Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary