

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
March 13, 2025
Minutes

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Bergey, Engineer Joe Carlin, Solicitor David Comer, and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino.

MOTION ON MINUTES: Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2025, Council meeting. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Mayor read from the minutes of the Green Lane Borough Council meeting from nearly 150 years ago at which Council approved dedication of Macoby Street as a Borough road.
- The Mayor requested that a burn ban be enacted due to the high number of field fires recently. President Carpenter said he also received a request for a ban from the Green Lane Fire Company for the same reason. A motion was made by Councilman Godshall to enact a 30-day burn ban. Second by Darren Landis. Motion approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: State Police, ambulance and fire company reports are on file.

VISITORS: Borough residents Mike and Sherri Lee, Michael Glass, Rick Stamper and David Whetstone. Town & Country reporter Mary Gibbs Kershner.

VISITORS' COMMENTS:

- Mr. Lee asked about a letter that he and his wife had sent to the Borough regarding bamboo that has spread onto their property from the neighbor's yard. Mr. Carpenter acknowledged receipt of the letter and said that the neighbor's property had been inspected and was now in compliance. The Lees said the bamboo continues to be a problem in their yard and that of another adjacent neighbor. Mr. Carpenter said he will consult the Borough's solicitor and ask the Code Enforcement Officer to do another inspection of the bamboo on the various properties.

- Mr. Glass had spoken to President Carpenter regarding a stormwater issue prior to the meeting and said he would be checking into the problem.
- Mr. Whetstone related several concerns about the property at 120 Gravel Pike (Rockwell's). The property owner has been cited, and a hearing is scheduled at district court on April 30, 2025. He also said that some doors have been secured at the old Yoders property, but other means of access are now present. He is concerned that the property is not secure.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- The proposed sewer grinder pump ordinance has been duly advertised by the Borough, and a full copy of the proposed ordinance has been sent to the Montgomery County Law Library. Additionally, the ordinance was adopted by Marlborough Township last night. Councilman Godshall made a motion to adopt the new grinder pump ordinance. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved.
- A proposed chicken ordinance was discussed. President Carpenter said he prefers to limit the number of chickens on a property to five, and owning chickens in the Borough will require a permit. He said that an ordinance has become necessary because chickens are being allowed to range freely through the Borough. Several concerns were expressed by Council and audience regarding different types of domestic fowl like ducks, geese, guinea hens, etc. Councilman Guntz would like to permit roosters to protect flocks of chickens. Mr. Carpenter said some changes would be made to the proposed ordinance, and it would be presented again next month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- Mr. Membrino is working with the owner of 134 Main St. regarding a commercial use of his property. An application to the Zoning Hearing Board has been provided to the owner.
- A new use for the property at 140 Gravel Pike is being proposed, and an application to the Zoning Hearing Board has been sent to the prospective tenant.
- Mr. Membrino reported that he discussed the history and current zoning of the property at 134 2nd St. (greenhouses) with a representative of some potential new owners.
- Michael Tierney at 301/303 Main St. regarding requested information regarding merging his two lots together with the intent of constructing an accessory building.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report on file)

- Construction on the Montco 2040 Grant - Route 29 Sidewalk Project is scheduled for completion by May 31, 2025. Documents were being prepared to put the lighting part of the project out for bid. A change order was entered to remove trees from 100 Main St.
- FEMA/PEMA buyout program demolitions have been completed.
- Project #2 with FEMA/PEMA has been approved, and the grant agreement has been signed by the Borough. The consultant for the FEMA acquisitions has told the Borough

that it will be able to request the full amount to purchase the three properties in this case. Normally, half of the funds are provided at the beginning, and the rest after the initial amount is spent down.

- A \$200,000 DCED-MTF grant was awarded to the Borough to continue restoration of Borough roads. Maple and School Alleys and Macoby Street will be prioritized in this project. The Mayor asked if curb installation on Maple Alley could be part of the project. Mr. Carpenter said he will look at it.
- Surveying is being scheduled for installation of ADA ramp upgrades funded by a \$100,000 DCED-MTF Grant.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- A reorganization meeting was held, and Brian Carpenter was reappointed as treasurer.
- Support letters should be requested from UPRPC for grant applications.

SEWER AUTHORITY: (Report on file)

- February 17, 2025, GLMJA meeting highlights
 - EEMA will use “Push Cameras” after PECO is done to assess damage to sewer lines.
 - Michael Tierney will be sent a letter regarding a request for a second EDU for vacant lot/potential build.
 - EEMA to get quotes to televise entire collection system section by section.
 - FEMA buyout properties have had laterals capped and inspected.
 - Waiting on MT and GLB to advertise and vote on Grinder Pump Ordinance.
 - Lateral repair permit will be ready next meeting.
 - EDU reservation agreement is complete.
 - Available loan balance is \$592k of which \$400k-plus is needed for pump station.
 - Accounts receivable balance is \$50k; \$18k of that is one customer; aggressive legal action (foreclosure proceedings) has begun.
 - The grant specialist will apply for PA Small Water and Sewer Grant due 4/30/25.
- President Carpenter had questions about EDU reservation agreement

ROAD COMMITTEE: None.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- Councilman Godshall said he got a fee quote for mowing and weed whacking the park from Faith Landscaping that is much lower than previous years.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

- Councilman Findley made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Green Lane Borough will present the MCBA dinner on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6 p.m. at PC Pub, hosted by Green Lane, Red Hill, Pennsburg and East Greenville.

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- Planning for the 150th anniversary of Green Lane is under way. Celebrations will be centered around the completion of several construction projects in the Borough, including Route 29 sidewalks, crosswalk, streetlights, trail connection, etc. Events to mark the anniversary are tentatively scheduled for September.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Carpenter will be providing a suggested overlay ordinance to John Kennedy, a land planner based in Harleysville, to review for the property at 134 2nd Street (greenhouses) on behalf of the Borough. The cost will be about \$2,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary