

PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, in the Council Room of the Towanda Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda, PA.

The meeting was called to order by Planning Commission Chairman, Shane Mize at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Shane Mize – Chairman, Co-Chairman Kevin Doupe, Mark Christini, Erin Groves, Roger Hatch

Members Absent: Brianna Fischetti, William Kovalcin, Diane Siegmund & Scott Hauser

Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Doupe' and seconded by Mr. Mize to approve the September 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Citizens to be Heard or Guests:

There were no citizens or guests to be heard tonight.

New Business:

Included was a letter from Stiffler McGraw on behalf of TMA (Towanda Municipal Authority), as they are submitting an application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for funding to upgrade the Authority's Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was originally built in the 1950s. Mr. Christini called Eric Casanave (of Stiffler McGraw & Associates) to address this letter. Mr. Casanave stated that it's essentially asking the Towanda Borough Planning Commission, since the project is in Towanda borough, to issue a letter consistent with the comprehensive plans that are recognized as being development plans for Towanda borough, which would be the overarching one with the adjoining municipality. On top of that, the Wastewater Treatment Plant work is in the floodplain. Because it is, they already got DEP clearance to do this work in the floodplain. So if you were to have a recommendation in your comprehensive plan that you should not do any work in the flood plain, then your letter may want to reflect that you're aware that the consulting engineer or the authority has secured the development approvals from the DEP (So the work could proceed in the floodplain, which we have done). Also, it is in an area already zoned for utilities, since there's a plant there now. He stated that are not picking up the old plant, and replacing it with a chicken factory, we're renovating an existing use. Mr. Casanave thinks you could consider that it is consistent with what's already there, but the letter needs to just recognize in a formal fashion that, as the Planning Commission, you understand what the project is and that it's consistent with the planning goals you set that have been part of any comprehensive plan that you recognize. Roger Hatch made the motion to send the letter to the PENNVEST office and Erin Groves seconded the motion. Motion passed.
The Code Enforcement Officer, Barry Thrush will write the letter, and the Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mize will sign as Chairman.

Old Business:

Solicitor Smith – Update of Chapter 325-57 – Change to another non-conforming use. He will get the information together to tighten the language in a particular change order form to avoid vague language and ensure compliance with existing zoning regulations.

FUTURE Business:

Stacy Schoonover, the Borough Manager is gathering information for these projects.

- A. Update Regional Comprehensive Plan – Regional Comprehensive Plan that was last adopted in 2008.
 - Central Bradford Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary
 - Central Bradford Region Comprehensive Plan
 - Central Bradford Region Comprehensive Plan Appendix

B. DCED Grant Approved – Point committee for bundled projects.

1. Tommy Fairchild Memorial Park (formerly Riverfront Park)
2. YMCA (SCI) Complex Master Plan (including the Memorial Park playground).
3. Third Ward Park.
4. The TRAIL project with the possibility of connecting all Towanda Borough Parks and municipal grounds with the trail.

C. Downtown Revitalization.

Adjournment:

Mr. Mize motioned to adjourn at 7:43 PM, 2nd by Mr. Doupe’.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 7 PM (note: this was canceled).
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7 PM



Recording Secretary, Planning Commission