NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION, SCHNECKSVILLE FIRE COMPANY BANQUET HALL
4550 OLD PACKHOUSE RD, SCHNECKSVILLE PA 18078

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2024

Meeting brought to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 by Chairman Brian Horwith

Attendance:

Supervisor Al Geosits	Chairman Brian Horwith
Township Director of Operations Jeff Mouer	Vice Chairman Robert Korp
Township Zoning Officer Aubrie Miller	Secretary Richard Semmel
Township Engineer Steve Gitch	John Barto
Township Solicitor Tom Dinkelacker	Richard Fuller
Township Planning Administrator Jane Kelly	Kathy Crawford

Minutes of the July 23, 2024, meeting were approved. Motion made by Sean Ziller, seconded by Richard Fuller, all others agreed.

1. Review of North Whitehall Township Agricultural Security Areas.
   - North Whitehall Township Director of Grants, Preservation & Trails Mike Kukitz presented a review of the township Agricultural Security Areas, which should be done every 7 years.
   - Property Owners of the properties on this report highlighted in yellow have requested to remove these parcels
   - **A motion was made by Planning Commission Member Robert Korp to recommend to the Board of Supervisors removing the highlighted properties from the Agricultural Security Area; Planning Commission Member Richard Semmel second the motion, all agreed, motion carried.**

2. Washington Township Draft Ordinance & Official Map Review
   - North Whitehall Township Director of Operations Jeff Mouer reviewed the submitted documents from Washington Township.
   - After a brief discussion, the only changes to their Official Map the Planning Commission noticed were the added Public Owned Lands and Rivers/Lakes/Streams labels.
   - **A motion was made by Planning Commission Member John Barto to provide NO comment on the proposed Draft Map of Washington Township, Lehigh County, Planning Commission Member Robert Korp seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of Planning Commission Chairman Brian Horwith who voted NO, motion carried.**

3. Review of Advice of Ethics Counsel as regards the roles of the Planning Commission Members and Supervisors in plan review.
   - Township Solicitor Tom Dinkelacker explained the Ethics Counsel advice regarding the Commonwealth's Ethics Act and it's applications to the Planning Commission members.
   - The members of the Planning Commission, as appointed residents serving on a recommendation-only commission, are not covered by the Ethics Act. Accordingly there are not any statutory requirements for a Planning Commission member to recuse his or herself from any plans or items presented to the Planning Commission
   - Planning Commission members should be prudent and thoughtful in determining when to recuse themselves. If they choose to recuse themselves from an agenda item, there should be a written statement included in the minutes.

Planning Commission Chairman Brian Horwith adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm.
Jane K. Kelly
Planning/Recording Secretary
North Whitehall Township