

WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of September 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the West Hempfield Township Planning Commission was held at the Township Municipal Office, 3401 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, September 17, 2015. Chairman Ron Beam called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members John Rodman, Vice Chairman, and Larry Groff were present. Also in attendance were Ron L. Youtz, Township Manager; Jodi Heffner, Zoning Officer; and Maria K. McDonald, Recording Secretary.

I. Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Groff, seconded by Mr. Rodman, to approve the minutes of August 20, 2015. **Carried 3-0.**

II. Communications

Chairman Beam asked if there were any communications and there were none.

III. Briefing Items - None

IV. Agenda Items

A. Historical Properties - Discussion

Ms. Judith Fry and Mrs. Shirley R. O'Leary presented to the members an inventory of around 300 parcels that are considered historical properties in West Hempfield Township. These parcels are located all over the Township. They are categorized as houses and barns that have been in the Preservation Trust archives since the 1980s surveys and some later 1990s surveys. The surveys which were done in the 1980s are some surveys of the older buildings. When Ms. Fry and Mrs. O'Leary got their review committee together they decided to do an update on surveys for the pre 1900s buildings and try to determine if those properties would classify as significant properties and not to be demolished. The members indicated to Ms. Fry and Mrs. O'Leary that they were impressed with the time and consideration that they and the volunteers had put into the inventory.

There was a discussion between the members and Ms. Fry and Mrs. O'Leary regarding the need for more educational awareness of the historical status of a property to a property owner. Many are not aware that they own a historical property and would need to know why it is important. Ms. Fry stated that Pennsylvania is one of the original 13 colonies and it would be nice to preserve and save the history of the original 13 colonies which is the backbone of the country. This history and architecture need to be saved.

The members discussed with Ms. Fry and Mrs. O'Leary that they do not have a problem with preserving the historic structures/properties but would like to see it done voluntarily and with some type of compensation for owning a historical property. Another problem would be the cost for bringing these historical buildings up to code. The renovation of historic property could be cost effective by allowing a reasonable substitute with new materials that look just like the old material. The members stated that in their packets for the meeting they were given three ordinances from other townships pertaining to the issue of allowing a chance for property owners to acknowledge that they own a historical property and what other considerations there might be instead of demolition. The ordinance they liked the most was from West Lampeter Township. The members stated that they would like to get support from the property owners regarding the issues and procedures on handling historical properties.

The overall conclusion from the discussion was that the members would like to meet with the Board of Supervisors to determine their comfort level with this topic, including what parameters they would like to try to achieve and establish criteria in considering which of the 300 properties are significant historical properties. The members also would like to discuss how to deal with, if any, restrictions regarding these properties. The members and staff again thanked Ms. Fry and Mrs. O'Leary for all their hard work and efforts they did to compile this listing for West Hempfield Township.

V. The next regular meeting will be held on October 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

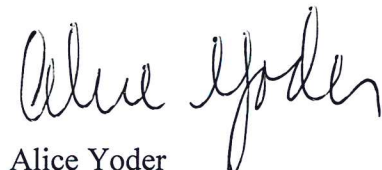
VI. Adjournment

Chairman Beam asked if there were any other comments or business to be conducted. Being none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Rodman, seconded by Mr. Groff, to adjourn the meeting.
Carried 3-0.

Chairman Beam adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Yoder
Secretary