

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 6, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – The May 6, 2024, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 Martins Creek, PA, 18063. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, C. Cook, J. Mauser, J. Smethers, M. Mastrogiovanni, J. Zator & J. Coyle. There were approximately 8 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2024 - MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore, to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- 1. Tara Mezzanotte** – Rt. I-80 Retaining Wall Replacement Update. Tara was present and gave an update. Tara met with Upper Mount Bethel Township EAC last week and is working with them on a Resolution supporting the tributaries and is also going to Portland Monday night. MJWA also signed a letter of support. D. Ascani suggested she check with the historic State Preservation office. Tara noted there is a virtual meeting on Monday, 5/13 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. regarding historic resources. A full assessment would need to be done. The entire Delaware Water Gap could be significant as a whole to the Lenape Indians and a National Landmark / Historic Preservation.
- 2. LMB / Sandt's Eddy Fire Co.** - Open House Sunday, June 23rd. Jeff noted they will be having a dedication for the new equipment and the building at 10:00 a.m. 12:00 they will have the Open House. Extra parking will be at the quarry and guests shuttled by bus. Wine & Wreath event – Jeff mentioned if the Fire Company can have alcohol for the event, he can apply for a 1-day event liquor license and their insurance covers the event for 10 days.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING EVENTS – M. DeBerardinis announced the following events:
Electronic Recycling Event Hosted by the EAC – Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 9-12 p.m. at the Centerfield School – Residents only.

LMB Sandt's May Day Firefighter Picnic and Raffle – Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 4:00 p.m. - dusk at the Riverton Field.

LMBT Farmers Market & Plant Sale Hosted by the LMBT Rec. Board – Saturday, May 18th 10-2 p.m. in the Village at the Township office.

Clean Up Event - EAC will be sponsoring a community volunteer clean-up day on Sunday, May 19th. They will be meeting in the parking lot at the Meadows of Martins Creek Park at 10:00 AM and we will be cleaning up along the creek in that area. Lunch will be provided, if you are interested in joining, contact the township office.

LMBT Community Day Hosted by the LMBT Rec. Board – Saturday, June 8th - 1-5 p.m. in the Village at the Township office.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING

OLD BUSINESS

1. **MOU – Bangor Library and LMBT** – Kathleen Lynch, Library Director was at the March 4th BOS meeting asking the Township to prepare an MOU committing LMBT to donate \$1,500 per year towards the Bangor Library, which we already give them annually. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve the MOU with Bangor Library and LMBT. Vote: 5-0.
2. **Discussion/Approval of Camera System for Entrance to Gravel Hill Enterprises.** Jen discussed with the Board the price quotes from Fox Brothers and Swanson Electric. The light post at Gravel Hill Rd. & Geraldine Court, the switch box was never turned off. Since it's not our pole, we can't do a work order for that pole. Jen mentioned Fox Brothers quote was \$9,150.00 and Signal Service was \$8,351.00. Jen will try to start the process with a work order with Met Ed for the other pole.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **5520 Martins-Creek Belvidere Highway – Stormwater Issues.** J. Mauser did a slide show presentation of the stormwater issues resulting from the July 23rd storm. John pointed out three properties affected by the flood - lot. 9 Talens, lot 10a – Osborn & 10 – Bruce Fox. Lot 10a the drain field and streambed were compromised. Lot 10a the property owners had free fill hauled in which had construction debris and other matters. The landowner did not contact the adjoining landowners and they are upset. The DEP, Conservation District have both been out there. Also, the Attorney General – Environmental Crimes Division came into the township office and spoke to Jen. They are not looking to press charges against the property owners, they are investigating the haulers. DEP will be doing soil sampling soon, if it doesn't pass the soil test requirements, the dirt might have to be removed. D. Ascani asked if this is a private civil matter. John noted those private agencies are taking care of everything. It should be noted in the next newsletter that any noticeable earth disturbance should be reported to the Township office.

John discussed The Vishnesky property being flooded several times. Representatives Boscola and Flood have been out there with Penn DOT. J. Mauser would like to have J. Coyle review the information and do an elevation study of the culvert at Hillendale and the continuing deterioration of that macadam over that road. J. Smethers needs to talk to the NRCS, Farmland Preservation and the property owners.

2. **Employee Pension Plan** – J. Smethers discussed the pension plan through PSATS and the ongoing issues she has had with Met Life. Jen discussed the PSAT'S pension plan and will ask them if it needs to go out for bid. PSAT'S only charges a \$250.00 annual admin. fee and we pay Foster & Foster \$1,000 per year. Jen will get more information for next month.

Community Yard Sale Discussion/Set a Date - M. DeBerardinis and N. Palmeri have decided on the weekend of June 21st for the Community Yard Sale. Times to be determined.

Approval of Signs for Centerfield Tennis/Pickleball Courts and Playground - J. Smethers reviewed with the Board the signs acknowledging the funders. Other signs are for rotation rules for the courts and park rules to replace the plastic sign currently there.

Jen would also like to purchase a pickleball paddle rack to keep the rotation going smoothly. There will be a 3-game max. D. Ascani suggested we try the cloud cameras at the courts first.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$162,499.05. Vote: 5-0.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – Mike asked that we get in touch with all the utility company regarding the bundled wires going through the meadows. across from Susans property.

Township Engineer Report – J. Coyle reported the pickleball & tennis courts and moving along, they are doing the final paving, seal coating and fence posts are being installed, restoration of topsoil and grass seed. Hopefully the courts will be open by Memorial Day. M. DeBerardinis would like to sit down with Justin Coyle and go over stormwater issues.

Board Members Reports

C. Cook – No report.

S. Disidore – No report.

D. Ascani – No report.

J. Mauser – John reported there is a Girl Scout interested in completing her silver award at the Meadows. She would like to make 3 tables, one or two, along the park and fasten to a 4x6 concrete base. Once she gets approvals from the Girl Scout board, she will come before the Board of Supervisors. John mentioned there were blue bird eggs in the nesting box at the Welcome Center. Now 6 blue birds have hatched and Lori Jameson is taking care of them. John noted the road crew is doing a fantastic job and discussed the stormwater issues at the trail on Martins Creek Belvidere Hwy. There is cracking and a hole 4ft deep near the Oughoughton, rebar material needs to be hauled in. John discussed The Vishnesky property being flooded several times. Representatives Boscola and Flood have been out there with Penn DOT. J. Mauser would like to have J. Coyle review the information and do an elevation study of the culvert at Hillendale and the continuing deterioration of that macadam over that road. John suggested J. Smethers talk to the NRCS, Farmland Preservation and the property owners.

Township Manager Report – No report.

Township Solicitor Report – Written report submitted, no further report.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported the Road Crew have been screening topsoil and mulching at all the parks, mowing, worked on Mack, fixed bank at Little Creek Road and extended pipe at Garr Rd. 10 more feet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT - The Board of Supervisors Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township