

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
August 21, 2012

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Frank Wetzel, Adam Klock, Steve Reed, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Public Comment

The three visitors present introduced themselves.

Mr. Gary Glick asked what is done with old street signs. He was informed that the Borough sells the old signs for \$20.

Mr. Rees arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Rees, council approved the Council Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2012 by a vote of 4-0-2. Mr. Sees and Mr. Wetzel abstained.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reminded everyone of the September 2nd event. Teedy VanKirk will be honored.
- Mayor Zboray informed the council that he attended a meeting with PennDOT in Sunbury. Topics discussed were the traffic issues on the Veterans Bridge and the traffic coming through Northumberland. They discussed posting cameras along blue hill to monitor traffic and using a sign board in Shamokin Dam that would inform travelers of delays in Northumberland and recommend using Route 15.
- Saturday, September 1st, volunteers are asked to help set up in the Savidge Room for the event on September 2nd.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Office for the month of July.

Mr. Ruane informed the council that he will be retiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Troup asked if Mr. Ruane checked into the bush at the intersection of Fifth Street and Strawbridge Road. Mr. Ruane replied that he had and that the bush is not within the 25

foot triangle. It was suggested that the new owner of the property be contacted and asked to remove or trim the bush voluntarily.

Mr. Troup asked who conducts electrical inspections in the Borough. Mr. Ruane responded that the party may choose their own certified electrical inspector, or they may use Building Inspectors Underwriters.

Mr. Klock asked if the Groninger Insurance billboard coming into town is on a building owned by Groninger or if someone else owns the building. Mr. Reed stated that he thought Kohl owned the building. Discussion ensued about sign regulations. It is believed that the ordinance was repealed in the late 1990's.

Emergency Services Board Report

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Emergency Services Board meeting will be postponed to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10th.

Sewer Authority Report

No report

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mayor Zboray informed the council that the ribbon cutting at Liberty Splashland Bowl Slide was held on Friday. The event was well-attended.

Mr. Klock stated that Dick Simpson has offered to serve as the Pineknott Park Committee Chairperson. He explained that Mr. Luden had been busy this year and was happy to learn that Mr. Simpson would be willing to oversee the ballfield. Mr. Luden had added that he would help out. Mr. Klock recommended that committees be established for Pineknott Park Ballfield, Liberty Splashland, and the Liberty Recycling Center. Mr. Troup agreed that there is a lot of work for one person to handle. Mr. Reed suggested that Mr. Simpson be asked to form a committee. Mr. Klock stated that he has said that he has volunteers who are willing to help. Mr. Rees asked if the committees would meet with the Community Development Committee. It was stated that they could meet with the committee, but they could also hold their own meetings.

It was noted that at one time, the Borough Council had been trying to establish a Recreation Commission with Point Township. But that hasn't happened.

Mr. Zboray was asked what the 17857 organization is hoping to accomplish. Mr. Zboray stated that the group is trying to combine the resources from the Township and the Borough, promoting the valley. The website is to advertise events in the community, so people may go to the one website instead of the separate websites. Mr. Sees asked if recreation is to be included. It was explained that the group is planning to follow the joint comprehensive plan that was adopted by both the Borough and the Township in 2009. The comprehensive plan includes recreation. The organization is also planning to obtain 501(c)(3) status so they may apply for grants and funding that is only available for non-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations.

The group would serve as a resource to administer any grants that would come through them. The Borough and Township would be able to approach this organization to request help with funding for projects.

Mr. Sees stated that he did not think it would be a bad idea to form a Recreation Committee that could work in conjunction with 17857.org. Mayor Zboray added that the idea could be placed on the website that the Borough is forming a Recreation Committee or Commission. Mr. Tira noted that the Borough Code has provisions for a Recreation Commission. A committee does not have the authority to act on behalf of the Borough, they are merely advisory. The Commission is laid out as to what their authority is by the Borough Code. Council felt a committee would be better. Mr. Klock added that the township residents could volunteer for the committees. He suggested that seven members be appointed to each committee.

Mr. Troup stated that the council should get in touch with the recycling volunteers to learn how it's run. He suggested contacting other municipalities and obtaining the big bins so people may drop off their recyclables to really make it recycling friendly. The Borough Secretary stated that there had been drop off recycling at one time. But it was discontinued because too much garbage was being dropped off, not just recyclables. Mr. Klock stated that this could be discussed by the committee. The Borough Secretary said that currently there are four groups that volunteer at the center. They are the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club and the Masons. Mr. Troup said that council could contact these people, but he thinks the bins that Lewisburg has would be the way to go. Mr. Klick asked where the money goes that is raised at the Recycling Center. It was explained that the volunteer groups get the money. They in turn donate it to projects in the community. Mr. Troup asked if the Borough pays any of the bills for the recycling center. He was told that the Borough does. Mr. Troup said that he feels the bills should be paid from the money that the recycling center earns. Mr. Rees stated that the Borough has obtained equipment through recycling grants. Several items were mentioned. The Borough Secretary stated that she also applies to the state for the Recycling Performance Grant each year and the Borough keeps that funding.

Mr. Klock moved to advertise on the Borough website and in the 17857.org newsletter for volunteers to serve at the ballfield, pool, and recycling center. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rees suggested talking to the volunteers at the recycling center before forming a committee. Mayor Zboray agreed. Mr. Klock stated that he feels that wherever there is money involved, he thinks there should be a committee. He said that running the pool is a lot of responsibility and that more than one person should be involved. Mr. Troup added that the fire department is looking for more volunteers. Mr. Wetzel noted how difficult it is to get people involved. Mr. Rees stated that he is in favor of getting more people involved, but he would first like to hear what the recycling volunteers and Greg (Carl) have to say. Mr. Wetzel agreed. Ms. Bogovich asked if the pool and Pineknott Park are audited. She was informed that the pool account is one of the Borough's accounts and that the auditor does audit all Borough accounts. The Pineknott Park ballfield income and expenses run through the Borough's General Fund. Mr.

Klock asked if the Recycling Center's account is audited. He was informed that it is not audited by the Borough's auditor. Mr. Klock stated that by having committees, the members can share ideas and responsibilities. He noted that the drainage system at the pool is a complicated system and just Tom and Greg know how it is laid out. He feels that more people could be involved to learn how it runs. Mr. Klock withdrew his motion until the idea could be discussed with the recycling volunteers and Greg Carl.

Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to appoint Dick Simpson as the chairperson of the Pineknoller Park ballfield committee.

Finance

Mr. Rees announced that the committee would meet at 6:30 on September 19th to begin the 2013 budget.

Personnel

Personnel issues will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Mr. Sees stated that the committee discussed the animal ordinance at the last meeting. Mr. Klock had developed a flow chart that provides options to be followed for stray cats. Mr. Sees stated that the real issue is keeping cats out of other peoples' yards. Mr. Klock read portions of the proposed ordinance. 1. A mandated one time cat licensing at three months of age, either through the Borough or a veterinarian; 2. A ban would be placed on outdoor feeding of cats without a permit from the Borough. The Borough would issue permits for colonies where outdoor feeding would be permitted. These colonies would be established as part of the Trap, Neuter, Release Program. 3. Enact a cat leash law; 4. Ban on releasing stray animals in the Borough; 5. Enabling participating veterinarians enrolled in the cat program to board animals indoors, only. Discussion ensued regarding the ordinance. Mr. Sees stated that the committee would review the rental ordinance as requested by the Code Officer.

Sewer

Mr. Klock informed the council that last week he received an additional scope for new digestive tanks at the Northumberland Sewer Plant. This was not included in the original scope of the project as developed by the engineer. Ms. Bogovich questioned why the Borough continues to use the same engineer. She was informed that the Sewer Authority is a separate entity and that they choose their engineer. Mr. Klock said that this additional scope adds \$1.621 million to the project of building a new plant. Mr. Klock added that the cost to drill the pipeline to Sunbury was over-estimated by \$1.44 million. He said that these are preliminary numbers from the study being done by Brian Book.

Mr. Klock noted that the DEP has been made aware that the Borough has prevailed in the law suit and that the Sewer Authority has been ordered to turn over all its assets to the Borough. As a result of the court order, Mr. Klock has drafted a letter to DEP explaining the status of the sewer authority and the Borough's intent to transfer the permit to Borough ownership. Mr. Klock read the letter to council. He stated that a 30 day prior notice is required by DEP and that both the new and old permittees are required to sign the transfer request. He also stated that at a meeting this morning, DEP's position was that they would be willing to listen to arguments to revise the consent order that was signed by the Sewer Authority. The current consent order is for a new plant to be built at the existing location. Mr. Wetzel asked if the NSA has begun transferring the property back to the Borough, per the court order. Mr. Tira recommended that further discussion about the court order be conducted in the Executive Session.

Streets

Mr. Reed informed council that the street project is progressing. Trees are being removed and curbing is being installed.

Ms. Bogovich asked what to do about street lights that are out. She was told to contact PPL and provide them with the numbers on the pole.

It was noted that the Borough does not own the street lights, PPL does. Mr. Troup suggested the possibility of removing some of the street lights to reduce the costs for electricity.

Old Business

1. The SU Give is scheduled for August 25th. Ten students will be arriving around 1:15 p.m. They will be spreading mulch outside the 2nd Street Community Center.
2. An application has been submitted for the Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant for signage at Pineknotted Park. The requested grant amount is \$10,000. The Borough must match this amount, if the grant is approved. As the Borough's match, the Eagle Scout candidate, Tristan Brosious, will raise funds of approximately \$3,500 toward the project. His work to design and install the signs will count as in-kind match for the remainder of the funding.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, the council voted unanimously to approve Resolution L-2012. This resolution adopts the Northumberland County 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan replaces the Borough's Hazard Mitigation plan that was adopted in 2003. By adopting this plan, flood insurance is available to Borough residents at a discounted cost.

New Business

1. Mr. Wetzel moved to pay the bills. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$12,924.60; Liberty Splashland bills total \$16,600.01; and bills to be paid from the Park and Recreation fund total \$89.

2. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted 5-0-1 to approve the Northumberland Christian School's Fudge Run on October 6, 2012 and to waive the \$50 fee for use of the King Street Park. The group provides the Borough with a certificate of insurance and submits the application required by the Borough. No streets are closed for the event. However, volunteers are posted at intersections to oversee the safety of the participants. Mr. Rees abstained from the vote because he is employed by the Northumberland Christian School.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council unanimously approved the budgeted contributions to Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library (\$1,500), Northumberland Revitalization (\$1,000), Penn Valley Airport Authority (\$600), Shade Tree Commission (\$1,000), and Liberty Splashland (\$9,000). It was explained that organizations may submit requests for funding to the Finance Committee during the budget process. The Finance Committee presents a proposed budget to the Borough Council for final adoption.
4. Mrs. Bogovich asked the name of the Borough's insurance carrier. She was informed that the insurance is through EMC and the Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Agency. She asked if the liability insurance was increased with the addition of the bowl slide and was told that it was.

Mr. Troup adjourned the meeting for an Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. Topics to be discussed are litigation and personnel issues. The meeting may be reconvened following the Executive Session.

Mr. Reed left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Troup reconvened the council meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Klock made a motion to send a letter to DEP requesting to initiate the permit transfer process from the NSA to the Northumberland Borough for the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Rees moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary