January 11, 2024

The East Hopewell Township Planning Commission held their regular monthly meeting at the Municipal Building at 7:30pm. Members present were Bruce Channell, Rob Davis, Scott Garvey, Samuel Georgieff and Jerry McLaughlin. Also attending the meeting was Dean Miller, Kasey Aubel, Phyllis Fogle, Fran Seitz, Glenda Channell, Todd Warner, Nicole Lawson, Stephanie Heaton, Jodie Lawson, Laura Vasold, Marjorie Trout, Dillon Demers, Roy Hiller and Michelle Tyson.

Attendees were notified that an audio recorder was being utilized for the meeting.

Melissa Hiller opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Samuel Georgieff made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 11, 2024 meeting. Rob Davis seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Sam Georgieff made a motion to approve the November 8, 2023 meeting minutes with an amendment that changes a word in the first paragraph from Committee to Commission. Rob Davis seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Laura Vasold presented a proposal to make changes to East Hopewell Township’s zoning ordinance regarding the keeping of livestock. Ms. Vasold reviewed the response and recommendations from the York County Planning Commission (YCPC) regarding the proposal. Ms. Vasold stated that the proposal was being made with the intent of allowing more flexibility for residents with less than 5 acres and not to make any changes for properties of more than 5 acres. An extensive conversation that allowed questions to be raised and addressed between the Planning Commission, Laura Vasold and attendees followed. Cumulative, continuous, and connecting lots and permanent versus non-permanent structure definitions were topics of conversation. Permit requirements were analyzed and discussed. There were recommendations made about the amount and type of animals allowed in the proposal. Commission members expressed concerns regarding the emotional support animal portion of the proposal.

Kasey Aubel, attendees, and the Commissioners engaged in extensive conversation regarding how the Township is zoned and standards that would be set in the different zones by the proposed changes.

The Commissioners encouraged Laura Vasold consider the feedback given at the meeting and to update the proposal for re-submittal. Laura Vasold agreed and reiterated that proposed changes would have no impact on properties with 5 or more acres.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the timeline and process for a new proposal was discussed, with The Commissioners acknowledging how long the process can take. Fran Seitz and Todd Warner questioned Commissioners about notification of people that are on the agenda that did not make the request themselves to be on the agenda. Commissioner Jerry McLaughlin addressed a question regarding permit requirements for livestock. He clarified that the current ordinance requires a permit for structures used for livestock and that the permit in question was not for animals themselves.

Rob Davis made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors not to adopt the proposal as written. Scott Garvey seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Samuel Georgieff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Davis seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hiller

Township Secretary