

Jim Thorpe Planning Commission
March 28, 2017

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Roll call of members: Lou Hall, Nancy Porambo, John McGuire, Joanne Klitsch, Jolene Evans, Joe Micko

Visitors: None

Approval of Minutes: February minutes will be reviewed and approved in April of 2017.

Status of previous meeting tasks:

Zoning Change: This was approved on March 9, 2017 at the Borough Council meeting.

Readdressing: Postmaster for Harrisburg has signed off on it. Start date of June 1, 2017 letting residents know they have 1 year to come into compliance. Working to get signs made up for the streets. Kurt was also talking about getting 30-40 street signs for the Borough so people could post on their houses. The second half will be started after completion of this portion.

Discussion of Projects:

Nuisance Ordinance – John indicated he and Clem went through the old ordinance, the title of the ordinance may change. Clem sent changes to John, John sent to everyone this evening. There was concern about junked vehicles and campers. Lou asked that everyone review the information John sent and we will discuss next month. Lou, all we're doing is taking what's in the current ordinance and polishing it up. Lou asked about ticketing. John, we have to come up with what we want to have on the tickets. Jolene, will everyone get notified? Lou, yes, it will be a notice first. We will also have to have a notification to the community as well. Isaacs will be enforcing the ordinance.

Downtown Parking – We have grant money to give us assistance. We will table this for now.

Borough Park Planning Review – Joe indicated Maureen talked about doing something over town at Kemmerer. John indicated we are in agreement that we take care of the property maintenance. We don't own it, however, Kemmerer owns the park. Joe, what about Twining and repointing the wall, will we get a grant? Joe also asked about the steps going down to the Market, will they be corrected? Jolene indicated we would also need benches. Some discussion was made regarding drainage. Jolene also asked about lighting. Jolene agreed to go with Joe to the park and make recommendations. They will then bring back suggestions to the Commission next month.

Railroad Communications Tower – Between the JT Market and the entrance of the bridge, a tower is being proposed. Lou has concerns about a 130' tower being put up. Height discussion indicates nothing more than 199' is allowed. There was additional discussion regarding its classification, dimensions and design, usage outside the intended use by the railroad (commercial). It is going to be located in the industrial zoning area. This permits commercial usage. Lou will call the railroad representative and will give us an update at the next meeting. Nancy will call Elisa Marsden and ask if she knows of any other areas that have dealt with this.

Questions posed by the Commission for Elisa: Will the steps be kept where the new construction is going in for the walking bridge? Local fisherman like the steps and it would be great if we could keep them. Does the railroad's 130' tower impact any historical foundations, etc.?

Jim Thorpe Memorial Sign – The sign is falling over. It looks bad and we need to know if it's something we need to take care of with the Borough. Joanne asked if we should inform Maureen and ask her to call Kmetz. The Hall of Fame takes care of the property. Lou said more people will be coming into town and it should be taken care of.

Other Issues – Jolene asked if we have an ordinance on drones? John indicates we don't but we can make community guidelines.

Short-term Rentals – There are complaints of people parking in the shoveled areas of residents. Lou went to the Commissioner's meeting and they talked about Lackawanna County and they have an agreement through Air B&B. They, (Air B&B), collect the taxes. The competitors of Air B&B's are informed and if anyone goes through them to rent, they will collect the taxes. Maureen wants to have the individuals get permits. He is ok with that, enforcement, however, is an issue. County makes 3% off the rentals. Joe, if Pocono gets the hotel tax, that's not necessarily good either. Lou said the money doesn't have to go there. We don't have the revenues to enforce it, unfortunately. If we can get the addresses of people renting, we can then notify them that they will need a permit. This needs to be enforced by an ordinance. Lou, we want them to know that if they don't notify us, they will be fined. If the fine is substantial, they will do it.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:55 p.m. Nancy motioned, Jolene seconded. Motion carried.