

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
September 20, 2022**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Present in addition to Mr. Gabel were committee members Keith Endy, Barry Christman, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark LLC., and numerous interested citizens.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Endy, and approved.

Mr. Gabel called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

Unfinished Business

Lighting and Parking Lot Layout Plan 25 SRA & 16 WPA – TL Conrad is installing the light poles this week. Paving and line striping of the lot is nearly complete. A small area of the lot requires additional base repair, and the directional arrows still need to be painted at the driveway entrance on South Reading Avenue. SDE, Inc. expects CMS, Inc. to return to shortly to complete the project. No certificate of payment has been processed pending project completion.

Community Swimming Pool – The YMCA has almost completed draining the pool and an engineer from SSM will be contacting me to schedule the inspection. Mr. Deery and Mrs. Carnes will be present for the inspection. Mrs. Loder advised the committee that the YMCA is requesting the Borough not charge for the water to refill the pool. Mrs. Loder advised the committee that the pool holds 440,000 gallons of water. The winter level of the pool is kept below the return lines. We can get a meter reading to determine the amount of water used to refill the pool. The committee agreed not to charge the YMCA for the water used to refill the pool.

New Business

Resignation Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor – All members of Borough Council were provided via email with a copy a resignation letter submitted by Fred Hatt, Hatt Legal, LLC. Mr. Hatt is closing his legal office at the end of 2022 and will no longer be able to provide legal services to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Hatt and Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman recommend the Borough retain the services of Alexander J. Elliker, 316 W Main Street, Kutztown, PA. Mr. Elliker is well versed in land use law and was employed and trained by the law firm of Kozloff Stoudt prior to opening his private law practice. Mr. Elliker is available to serve as the solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Following discussion, the committee agreed to recommend Borough Council recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board appoint Alexander J. Elliker as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.

Berks County Conservation District MOU – The committee reviewed a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Berks County Conservation District for services they provide to Berks County municipalities related to erosion and sediment control and earth disturbance activities. Mrs. Loder noted that the changes in the MOU are minor; the services provided by the Conservation District are necessary. The agreement will be valid for five years. The committee agreed to recommend Borough Council authorize execution of the MOU.

Pickleball Court Master Plan – Members of Council were provided via email with a copy of the plan for construction of Pickleball Courts at the Boyertown Community Park. The plan was prepared by Brian S. Bingeman, Registered Landscape Architect, of Turf Track & Court, under an agreement with a group called the Boyertown Picklers. The group spokesperson Mr. Ed Saxman requested Borough Council members provide comments on the draft plan. The plan depicts the construction of six courts and eliminates the two existing storm water drains in the former ice rink. Stormwater would be managed by the installation of an eighteen inch stone filter along the north edge of the courts which will allow the water to drain to the same swale where it currently drains. The committee advised the group that they are in agreement that the current drains should be eliminated to be replaced with the stone filter bed. A majority of the committee had no objection to the plan as submitted. Mr. Gabel is opposed to the construction of the Pickleball Courts as presented.

Public Comment

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel, second by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary