

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 3, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was open to the public, and the link to join the meeting was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Dakin  
Lee Ann Embrey  
John Ceschan  
Rob Hall  
Janice Gottesfeld  
Kevin Moore  
Joe Roscioli  
Elizabeth Alakszay

**TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Pam Gural-Bear, Assistant Township Manager  
Ed Culp, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Ted Otteni, Director of Public Works  
Caroline O'Connor, Public Works Coordinator  
Rajesh Kumbhardare, Board of Supervisors Liaison

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mr. Roscioli, seconded by Ms. Embrey, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Gural-Bear announced that Community Day as well as the June Concerts in the Park have been cancelled. She advised that Staff is currently working with the Chamber of Commerce on a possible drive-in concert hybrid for August and checking into the cost of screen rentals for drive-in movies.

Mr. Culp introduced Public Works Coordinator Caroline O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor was hired to fill the vacancy left by Linda Cleaver's retirement.

Mr. Otteni reported that Phase I of the Chester Valley Trail extension to the Exton Train Station (Bartlett Avenue to the Train Station) will be done next week. There was then discussion of sidewalk on the eastern side of Route 100. Mr. Otteni showed an aerial view of the area and proposed using the Crest Avenue dead-end leading to a crossing of the ramp. He noted that pedestrians are making the crossings in this built environment now and stressed the need to make these crossings safer.

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Mr. Hall asked how vehicular traffic will be affected when the traffic lights at the intersection of Route 100 and the Route 30 off-ramp are adjusted for pedestrian crossings. Mr. Otteni said the potential is there to make the traffic worse for motorists, but they are working on fine-tuning the timing. He added that the lights will only adjust when a pedestrian wants to cross and will not be in effect otherwise.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**1. Update on COVID-19**

Mr. Dakin asked about lessons learned in providing services during a pandemic. Ms. Gottesfeld said she felt the Township performed well in continuing to provide services. Mr. Culp said with the move from the Red phase to the Yellow phase, the Township will be opening tennis courts and restrooms next week. Signage regarding the practice of social distancing will be posted, and the restrooms will be sanitized daily.

Mr. Kumbhardare said he is in the process of making calls to the various leagues that use park facilities to relay guidelines. He noted that most anticipate starting league play with fewer people when the community enters the Green phase.

Mr. Dakin asked what the Township could do to encourage outdoor seating at restaurants. Mr. Kumbhardare said this is part of the Township's ongoing outreach to see what can be done to accommodate this – perhaps utilizing a few parking spaces. Mr. Gottesfeld said she thought the Chamber may also be working on this issue.

Mr. Dakin pointed out that the link provided in the agenda to the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) chart outlining activities allowed by phase was a good reference as the community reopens over the summer.

Mr. Dakin thanked Ed Culp and Denise Serino for their efforts in delivering trash bags to residents who needed them and could not get out themselves.

There was some confusion over the change to the recycling pickup following the Memorial Day holiday, but this was not COVID related. Ms. Gural-Bear said the Township will communicate any future changes to residents earlier next time, noting the same schedule will be followed with the Labor Day holiday in September.

Ms. Gottesfeld noted that the Boot Road Park basin was in need of weeding. She said she planted perennials and herbs in the Butterfly Garden. Mr. Hall offered extra irises and lilies from his community for the Butterfly Garden. Ms. Gottesfeld further suggested that signage be placed at the Overlook Trail and the path be widened. Mr. Culp will check on this.

Ms. Alakszay advised that the Periodic Table is in need of weeding. Mr. Dakin said he will take care of this.

Mr. Roscioli said the County dashboard for COVID information is not easy to navigate to from the Township's website. Ms. Gural-Bear will address this.

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Ms. Alakszay said the Township did a good job in getting voting information out to residents.

## **2. Discussion on Renewable Energy Transition**

Mr. Dakin thanked the members for attending the Sierra Club presentation on renewable energy. Members said it was very comprehensive.

There was discussion about whether to start educating the public now on opting for more energy efficient products when the market, as well as the suppliers, might not be ready at this time. Citing the need for a new water heater now as an example, Mr. Dakin pointed out that today an electric water heater may not be the most cost effective. The challenge is the current higher cost of electricity vs. oil and balancing that with major appliances/automobiles, etc. that are only purchased every 10 or 20 years.

In replacing fossil fuels with electricity, Ms. Alakszay asked where the electricity was going to come from. Mr. Kumbhardare said they are looking into contracting to buy energy from solar fields. Mr. Dakin was glad to see that the Boot Road House and Park listed as a potential pilot location for solar energy, noting that this would be a good opportunity to showcase the facility.

## **3. Update on Boot Road Park**

Mr. Otteni reported that construction was moving along and estimated the project would be completed by the end of June. No fencing is proposed at the trail connections to the Whiteland Woods development.

## **4. Public Works Update**


Mr. Culp reported that the Public Works employees did a fantastic job cleaning up from today's storm event.

Mr. Dakin noted that the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, may be cancelled unless there is a need to discuss further park openings should the County move to the Green phase.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Gottesfeld made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Kevin Moore, Secretary