

Butler Township Planning Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2020

Members Present: Rick Funt, John Adamik, Gail Sweezey, and Dave Ryman, Danielle Helwig—Township Secretary, Jon Holmes—Township Engineer

Six visitors were present.

Rick Funt, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ryman made the motion to approve the December 2019 minutes. Adamik seconded the motion and all approved with a 4-0 vote.

The entire meeting was about zoning. We reviewed the written comments from Jon Holmes, Township Engineer and Butler Township residents Joan and Larry Bushey. These corrections have been submitted to Adams County Planning for inclusion in the zoning document. There are two more public meetings before adoption.

There is some resident questions regarding Solar Farms. This is a required use per Pennsylvania code. The Solar Farm language in the zoning ordinance draft is standard and can be found in the zoning documents of other townships in Adams County.

Through our discussion on Solar Farms we identified questions to address with Rob Thaler at Adams County Planning:

1. Is the 50 foot setback a requirement? Should we explore the feasibility of changing that to 100 feet? Is that even possible?
2. Can information on the timeline for decommissioning implementation once the Solar Farm lease expires or the company goes out of business?
3. Is it better to restrict Solar Farms to areas with poor soils or is that not recommended?

Other questions:

1. Should we put size and timeframe parameters around the use of portable signs? We don't believe that restricting use is necessary in Butler Township, but providing guidelines is important.

Addie Johnson, Butler Township Resident asked if the Township Planning Commission would be willing to write a letter of support to the new Butler Township Zoning Board regarding the rural event space she is creating. We agreed to send a letter at the appropriate time once the Zoning Ordinance is implemented.

The Township Planning Commission suggests to the supervisors that a full time zoning enforcement employee is not necessary right now. Instead, we believe that hiring a qualified person as needed makes the most sense for the township. We would be glad to talk more about this with the supervisors at the appropriate time.

Funt adjourned the meeting at 8:00. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Sweezey
Secretary