

**RICE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
RICE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
3000 CHUCH ROAD
MOUNTAIN TOP, PA 18707**

**MINUTES
October 24, 2018**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Planning Commission

was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda were available to the public. Vice-Chairman Tom Romanyshyn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting is recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

ROLL CALL:
Richard Arnold - here
Ray Fedor - absent
Tom Romanyshyn - here
Bob Smith - here
Paul Ward - here

Also in attendance were: Please see sign-in sheet

Motion by Paul Ward, second by Bob Smith to accept the minutes of last meeting (September 26, 2018):

All were in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business:

Romanyshyn called for a review of responses to residents' questions regarding Heslop Road traffic study. Residents Barbara Miller, Joanne Black, and Harry Kemmerer expressed concerns that Heslop Road could not safely handle additional traffic and that they disagreed with the conclusions of the Traffic Study. Miller asked the Planning Commission to perform a safety study on Heslop Road, but Attorney Charles McCormack clarified that such a request would have to be made to the Supervisors. Matt McGowan noted that the peak traffic was coming from Crestwood School, with no impact on Heslop. Mr. Biggs expressed concern about the bridge on Heslop Road, but that bridge is County owned and out of Township control. Discussion focused on signage, and Township Engineer Andy Pasonick agreed to review intersections for potential stop signage. However, Attorney Charles McCormack noted that stop signs cannot be used to slow traffic.

Pasonick explained that his focus on the traffic study was to protect the Township from PennDOT-mandated road changes. McGowan explained that the PRD project would take decades to complete as they sell around 10 houses a year. Pasonick added that the plan submission to the Planning

Commission could be up to two years in the future. McGowan also noted that two previous supervisors, both of whom lived on Heslop Road, were instrumental in encouraging Presidential Lands to provide a secondary access road as a safety issue, and Heslop Road was the practical solution. Rick Arnold explained that Presidential Lands had engaged a professional traffic engineer to perform the study and had paid for it as a condition of tentative approval of the PRD, that the results were presented and, while the residents' concerns are heard, the Township does not have the funds to rebuild Heslop Road which will not benefit many taxpayers in the Township. McCormack noted that the cost to survey the road and landowner property, acquire land from residents in order to widen the road and eliminate blind curves would be prohibitively expensive.

Romanyshyn turned to Pasonick to the status of conditional items relating to Jennifer's Way tentative approval. Pasonick responded that he had cleared all his outstanding items, and that only a few remained to be ironed out between our Solicitor and Bruce Fine's attorney. Once cleared, the recommendation can proceed to the Board of Supervisor's for tentative approval.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission is Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.


ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Ward, second by Romanyshyn, to adjourn at 7:38P.M.

All were in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary