

**Orwigsburg Planning & Zoning
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2017**

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on Wednesday June 21, 2017 in Council Chambers. Chairman Darin Brensinger called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were: Chairman Darin Brensinger, Vice Chairman Paul Bedway; Members: Larry Dagna, Chuck Ricketts, Kay Jones. Planning Consultant Chris Bentz; Borough Manager Bob Williams and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Danielle Richards of 113 W Market St, Suzy Jones of 111 W Market St, Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St and Borough crew Jake Brensinger.

Minutes

A motion to approve the April 19, 2017 meeting minutes as presented was made by Paul Bedway, second by Chuck Ricketts. Unanimous.

Public Comment - None

Old Business

Update Comprehensive Plan Project

Kay Jones and Bill Knecht updated the commission on the survey:

So far they have met with a number of people and have been to a number of events:

Second grade Girl Scouts

Seniors

Orwigsburg Business & Professionals Association

Yappy Hour

June Jamboree

Lions Club

Memorial Day Chicken Barbeque

Mini survey coasters and table tents are located in six restaurants

Primary comments received:

What makes Orwigsburg great?

Home town feel

Historic feel

Ability to walk everywhere

Curb appeal
What is missing?
Lack of curb appeal
Dog Park
Benches along the way
Sidewalks
Improve activities
Garbage kept in front of properties

Survey will be wrapped up by the end of summer – information received will be used as a guide for the next Comprehensive Survey.

Ordinance Update

Council unanimously approved all the recommended updates to the Zoning Ordinance and SALDO

Amendments are being reviewed by Planning Consultant and Solicitor Datte

Clarified Tiny Houses

Perpendicular parking was added

A Public Hearing is scheduled for August

New Business

SALDO - Section 1104 Recommended Plant Materials – Trees – Page 119

Orwigsburg Tree Committee

Danielle Richards and Suzy Jones who are two volunteer members of the Orwigsburg Tree Committee were present to review the street tree inventory they have completed to date:

Other members of the committee include:

Frank Snyder – retired forester (DCNR)

Toni Groff

Jerry Bowman

Committee walked through town and plotted each street on www.patreetemap which includes the following information:

- Picture of tree
- Mapped location
- Measured circumference
- Identified type of tree
- Condition of tree
- Energy efficiency

A demonstration of the site was shown to the Commission

Also reviewed research provided by DCNR:

- Provides natural beauty which attracts people
- Tree lined streets have a calming effect on motorists – slows traffic
- Property values increase by 10% with trees
- Increases citizen interaction
- Crime rates are lower
- Tree greenery enhances psychological well being

A demonstration on the patreemap.com site took place

The committee's goal in conjunction with the borough is to devise a plan on how to handle trees in poor condition that should be removed and also the planting of new trees. Grant moneys are available and the committee is willing to write the grant. Encourages the borough to become a Tree City USA municipality.

Kay Jones noted this project can be built into the Comprehensive Plan and suggested educating the residents by placing an article in the next newsletter.

Chris and the Commission compared Section 1104 – Recommended Plant Materials with the list of "Trees Suitable for Urban Street Planting" Frank Snyder acquired from Penn State. Some of the trees planted on S Warren / S Wayne Street are not on either of these lists and should be added.

The Historic Orwigsburg Walking Tour

Molly Letcher's Girl Scout Gold Award Project – 2011

The Commission did a brief review of the Historic Walking Tour brochure compiled by Girl Scout Molly Letcher in 2011.

Bob talked about registering Borough Hall with the Commonwealth (Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission or PHMC) as a historic building and educate the public on the historical importance of the town. We need to identify and inventory the borough's historic buildings so we can deliver an accurate brochure for Heritage Days. Once identified and certified we can apply for grant money for maintenance.

The "Tamaqua Community Action Plan" and Pottsville's "Design Guidelines for a Historic District" were distributed to the Commission for their review.

There are still open properties in the borough that we have not received plans on. If in favor of preservation vote tonight either yay or nay and take it to council for their support.

The Commission discussed a Historic Architectural Review Board and or a Historic Overlay District. This volunteer board would make recommendations only, not governed by ordinances. Would be helpful if the board consisted of an Architect, Engineer and possibly a Realtor.

Kay Jones, Larry Dagna & Bill Knecht will start the process for enlisting knowledgeable volunteers for a Historic Preservation Board.

Consensus of the Commission is to pursue the process of historic preservation.

Pine Creek Retirement Community

Borough Council pulled approval of plan
Currently in litigation – they have two years to file a brief with the court

Blue Mountain Retirement Community

ZHB – Appeal was denied
Developer filed an appeal to County Court

The Villas

Borough Council pulled approval of plan
Developer pursued legal action

Sopko – SCMA Interconnect

Sopkos challenged the validity of the easement on their property – The court upheld the boroughs position
The Sopkos appealed their loss
Waterline and vault has been installed

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Kay Jones, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Sherry Edwards
Borough Secretary