

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission was called to order on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Schoonover Municipal Building.

Members present: Bob Early, Parin Shah, Carrie Wetherbee, Wayne Bolt, Patricia J. Griffin and Dr. William Suriano. Planning Commission Solicitor Todd Weitzman, Esq., and Township Secretary Michele Clewell were also in attendance. (Mark Oney and Fred Courtright were absent).

Mike Dwyer and Cory Lyon were also present representing The Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Board.

Approval of Minutes

Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to approve the June 19, 2014 minutes. Wayne Bolt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Plan Submittals

Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Board Land Development Plan – Mike Dwyer, Chairman and Cory Lyon Alternate Member of the OGMMCPB provided some background information with regard to the compost site.

Mr. Dwyer stated that (3) townships have signed a multi-municipal agreement; Middle Smithfield Township, Smithfield Township and Lehman Township (Pike County) as each township is separately providing leaf collection within their own townships. The compost site provides one centralized location for leaf composting.

The 45 acre site is owned by PennDOT and a lease agreement is in place at a cost of \$3,000 per year for 10 years. The 45 acres site was to be a part of the then called Marshalls creek By-Pass, however this section of the by-pass project was abandoned by PennDOT. PennDOT did not create a plot mapped out they just took the right-of-ways of properties.

The compost site consists of 5 acres within the 45 acre tract off of Oak Grove/State Route 402.

Mr. Dwyer explained that a zoning permit application is pending and depending the approval tonight, the zoning officer can issue a zoning permit.

Public meetings with regard to the compost and site were held in 2013 at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, with all three townships present as well as Pat Calpin, Environmental Consultant.

Wayne Bolt asked how this would impact what Alan Sibberini of Middle Smithfield Materials, Inc. does. Cory Lyon stated that currently our brush goes to Stroud Township and we receive mulch back from them. Alan Sibberini accepts stumps; the stumps will still have to be taken to his site. The Oak Grove site is only for compost, left and yard waste.

Wayne Bolt questioned the combustion. Mike Dwyer stated that the combustion Mr. Bolt is referring to had to do with stumps and the depth of which they were buried; this is a leaf compost site.

Cory Lyon stated that an emergency plan is in place per PA DEP and PennDOT requirements. The piles have specific heights that must be adhered to. A water source is also required.

All three townships will drop their collected leaves at this site. The program, in time, will be a collection of leaves from everyone.

Pat Griffin asked how well the public meeting was attended. Mike Dwyer stated that roughly 40 people attended. Letters to all the surrounding property owners were mailed and public notice was placed in the newspaper. Mr. Dwyer stated that comments were received from Huffman Hill and the White Heron Lake private community.

Pat Griffin asked how you are not going to accept certain brush. Cory Lyon stated that only 3 inch brush will be allowed and if it is larger, it will not be allowed.

Mike Dwyer stated that there is a leaf vacuum and vacuum truck. Grants were awarded last year. The one vacuum truck will help with pickups within private communities.

Carrie Wetherbee asked if someone will be on site to check on what comes into the site. Cory Lyon stated that a township employee will be there during operation hours. Mike Dwyer stated that if the site is open 90 days out of the year that would be a lot.

Bob Early asked how the processing work does. Cory Lyon stated that the windrows are 7' – 8' feet high and they must be staggered. There will be a water source at the bottom (a well will be drilled) and a water buffalo at the top of the site. People will come in and drop off and then the employee will bring the leaves to the processing area. Once the material is processed, it will be hauled to the top and then the public can take it for free during operation hours.

Parin Shah asked about the condition of the black top. Cory Lyon stated that the black top is in good condition. Mike Dwyer stated that they may landscape it a little but it is in good shape.

The grating and drainage work were already completed by PennDOT as part of the by-pass; it is the OGMMCPB responsibility to maintain it.

Cory Lyon stated that a chain link fence will encompass the black top area and a security camera will also be installed. The building will be placed on the concrete that will be the office for the staff.

Parin Shah asked what kind of site equipment will be used. Cory Lyon stated that a loader will be used but will not be left on site.

Bob Early asked how are the sedimentation's going to be handled. Cory Lyon stated that there is not a lot of volume and the organic matter will soak into the ground.

There was concern with regard to the odor. Mike Dwyer stated that smells come from mixing food and grass waste. This compost site is only for leaves and brush. Food, cans, plastic will not be allowed.

A memo from Shawn McGlynn, Zoning Officer was provided to the members for their review. Parin Shah stated that the concept is a good idea. Attorney Weitzman stated that the request is to waive the requirements of the Middle Smithfield Township SALDO that would require submission of a land development plan.

Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to accept the OGMMCPB plan. Parin Shah seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Pat Griffin asked where is the run off going to go. Mike Dwyer stated that as there is not a lot of height to the windrows, it will be compressed as it breaks down. Cory Lyon stated that there are three detention basins that were originally built by PennDOT that will accept any run off from the windrows. It is the responsibility of the OGMMCPB to maintain the basins, i.e.: cutting grass, weeding, etc.

Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to recommend waiving the land development requirement as set forth in the Middle Smithfield Township SALDO. Bill Suriano seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Discussion

Committee Volunteer BBQ – Michele Clewell asked if the members planned on attending the event that will be held on August 2, 2014 at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall. Pat Griffin stated that she will check her schedule. All other members in attendance, stated that they are unable to attend, but thanked the supervisors for the invitation.

Township 2014 Mid-Year Report – Michele Clewell explained that the Board of Supervisors will be presenting the mid-year report on Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Continuing Education

Carrie Wetherbee stated that the next webinar will be held on July 23, 2014.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Parin Shah seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele L. Clewell
Recording Secretary
July 17, 2014