

Halfmoon Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
7:00pm September 2, 2008

Attendance: Dave Piper, Rob Brooks, Bob Eberhart, Larry Fennessey. PC members absent: John Stevens. Members Absent: Lorin Nauman, Scott Sheeder, John Stevens. Others present; Karen Brown, Acting Town Manager; Greg Love, Zoning Officer, Pat Hawbaker, Joe Friday, Jeff Sturniolo, GOH; Dave Kipp, PennDOT Dist2-0; Kaye Slusser, Albert Scheid, Sawmill Road citizens, Becky Brooks, minute taker.

- I. Call to order- Vice Chair Dave Piper called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.
- II. Citizens Comments. None.
- III. Quarry extraction at the end of Sawmill Road. The relevant Ordinance is 1999-11. The Township can set the conditions. Hawbaker representatives were present as were residents of Sawmill Road, and a PennDOT representative. Jeff Sturniolo, Hawbaker representative explained the project:
 - A. Spoil piles from clay pits did not have the proper characteristics necessary for the project.
 - B. The material in the pit terraces is suitable cover for I-99 acid rock.
 - C. The company will be hauling 800-1200 cubic yards. Start / stop time is flexible.
 - D. Due diligence is done- Converse Consultants has done the research on the impact on neighborhood wells. They reported on their findings.
 - E. 25,000 square yards will be hauled in 4-6 weeks, but it might take longer.
 - F. PennDOT will set up Road crossings for the truck route.
 - G. The existing pit would be widened, not made deeper, mining terraces.

Discussion.

Albert Scheid asked how many loads per day would there be? There would be approximately 100-120 per day. The trucks would enter Sawmill Road empty, and go out through Patton Township – Scotia Road- to the construction road on I-99. The weight on the incoming trucks is about 22,000 pounds.

Kay Slosser asked why Sawmill Road? Will there be damage? The road bond will cover any potential damage. Mr. Kipp (PennDOT)

said they were committed with HRI and Hawbaker to repair any damage to Sawmill.

Hawbaker is in touch with the School District, as to bus schedules, etc. There are no school busses on the road between 9 am and 3pm. Mr. Scheid asked if that was enough of a window to be feasible.

There will be message boards for warning times and durations. The same problems exist on Graysdale Boulevard.

Mr. Fennessey asked if the trucks would be covered? This is a safety issue. A bigger issue is to ensure the drivers are good and the school bus drivers are aware of the issue. Yes, each truck has a built – in tarp. There will be no trucks running at night.

The capping material for the acid rock surface is hard to find. There is 1.5 feet of limestone cap on the fabric (highly permeable). Clay is needed to slow the flow – so sandy clay is necessary, about an 8-inch cap. The mining will be complete before the opening of I-99.

Mr. Piper asked what is being hauled, and what is the depth of the excavation? It is sandy clay. About 5 acres will be mined; about 25 feet deep, but it will not be a hole.

The trucks will be cycling, to avoid passing each other.

They would like to start by September 15th if possible.

Ms Brown asked if they are sure there will be no damage to the local wells. They assured her that there would be no impact on the surrounding wells.

Mr. Love asked if PennDOT had any trouble with the intersection? No, the trucks will be turning right on Sawmill Road.

Is weather a factor? Rain is a big factor. Cold is also a factor. Either could delay or lengthen the process.

Ms Slosser asked if there would be much dust? Not too much.

How does the permit work? The permit is renewable yearly. Mr. Hawbaker said that this is not expected to be a commercial venture (year after year) there is no projection on the horizon for using this type of material. Mr. Eberhart asked if the permit had to be issued for a year. Could it be for 3 months? Mr. Love read the process

written in the mining document. Mr. Fennessey asked what triggered the mining application. Mr. Love said the intensity of use.

Mr. Brooks said that he thought the safety issues are important points for the BOS to consider.

Mr. Fennessey asked if the trucks and the intersection were thought to be unsafe, would they be willing to use flaggers. Yes. Mr. Brooks added that there should possibly be a message board at the Centennial intersection about the trucks and the hours of operation. Mr. Piper said that there should be signage up and down the route. The Sawmill Road residents need to know when it is going to happen. Mr. Piper said that the Township is limited to what it can do, but we need to consider the safety and what is in the best interest of the town.

There was discussion about how many message boards there should be- one or two in each direction? The group decided that the signs should be limited, and displayed during operating hours.

Mr. Hawbaker said we are all concerned about safety. He added that we will do what is safe. Mr. Love said the township will get complaints if the trucks are traveling through the town at 60 miles per hour. Mr. Hawbaker said that all the trucks have GPS systems so we will be able to tell if a driver is unsafe or speeding.

Mr. DeGregorio's comments have been addressed. Mr. Love said the meeting with him was productive and he is satisfied with the compliance.

Sawmill Road will be bonded. The roadmaster will document any problems with the road.

Motion. Mr. Brooks made a motion to list the Planning Commission's proposed conditions for the BOS including:

- 1. Logistics will be worked out with the school district. (Possible hours 9am-6pm - stacking trucks on site and waiting until the busses have passed through the area.)**
- 2. Message signs for active work zone during working hours only- not 24/7. Suggested locations are in Centennial (after the trucks coming over Bald Eagle Mt. from Port Matilda) and east of Sawmill Rd. intersection with Rt. 550 for traffic approaching Sawmill Road.**

3. Sawmill Road will be bonded to cover potential damage of excessive truck trips.
4. No operating of trucks at night. Hours should be after the morning rush hour, about 9am, and then until about dark, but avoiding student busing.
5. Truck beds are covered with tarps.
6. Safety first – the majority of issues related to safety and consideration of Twp. residents.
7. The Township should expect full cooperation from project managers, contractors, and PennDOT. A person will be designated as the first point of contact for dealing with issues during the length of the project.

Mr. Fennessey seconded. Vote 4-0. Motion passed.

- IV. Motion. Mr. Brooks moved to table the Barr Farm Country Estates Plan and the Porta land development. Mr. Fennessey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- V. Mr. Love said there are 4 applications for the Open Space Plan. Please review the properties and send comments to Bob Eberhart. The PC will consider the properties in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Brooks