

**WARWICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
JULY 31, 2017**

Chairman Jacob called the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order 6:30 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building, all members, Solicitor Fuller and Township Planner Ed Theurkauf were present.

Solicitor Fuller stated the Public Hearings– Special Meeting was legally advertised in the Pottstown Mercury on July 17 and 24, 2017. The Township has not received the proof of publication yet.

Mr. Jacob opened the Public Hearing for the Amendment to the Floodplain Ordinance, an Ordinance requiring all persons, partnerships, businesses and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development; providing for the issuance of such permits, setting forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the Township of Warwick which are subject to flooding; and establishing penalties for any persons who Fail, or refuse to comply with, the requirements or provisions of this ordinance.

Mr. Theurkauf gave an overview of the process which started over a year ago with FEMA to develop an ordinance amendment to comply with FEMA regulations.

Review letters were received from Warwick Township Planning Commission dated 7/20/2017, Chester County Planning Commission dated 7/5/2017 and an email from Gary Kraft dated 6/22/2017 and was also reviewed by the Township Solicitors.

Supervisors discussed amendments needed from the comments in the review letters.

All issues were addressed and approved by Leslie Rhoads, CFM, FEMA.

There was no Public Comments.

Mr. Jacob closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Jacob made a motion to adopt Ordinance #4-2017 an Ordinance requiring all persons, partnerships, businesses and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development; providing for the issuance of such permits, setting forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the Township of Warwick which are subject to flooding; and establishing penalties for any persons who Fail, or refuse to comply with, the requirements or provisions of this ordinance, 2nd Mrs. Cameron, all ayes.

Mr. Jacob Opened the Public Hearing for the amendment to the Warwick Township Zoning Ordinance to amend Ordinance 01-2017, Protection of the Hopewell Bigwoods, amending the Warwick Township Zoning Ordinance, further amending the Zoning Ordinance regarding the Forest Regeneration Plan requirements and Guidelines as well as the Applicability Provisions Thereof.

Supervisors reviewed the review letters from the Warwick Township Planning Commission dated 4/24/2017, Green Valleys Watershed Association dated 6/6/2017 and Chester County Planning Commission dated 5/5/2017.

Mr. Therkauf stated he felt the existing Ordinance, Ordinance #1-2017 has validity and is valuable to protect our resources. He stated that the amendments make the regeneration optional and weakens our specific purpose to protect the Hopewell Bigwoods.

Mr. Jacob agreed and felt the existing Ordinance protection would protect and regenerate the Hopewell Bigwoods after a timber harvest, which is good management practices.

Mr. Westlake stated he was against the current regulation felt they are too restrictive. He also felt if a professional Harvester does the Timber Harvest Plan the regeneration, management and E & S would be already addressed. He was in favor of the proposed amendment.

Mrs. Cameron also objects to the current requirements of 13 to 15 reports necessary for a 10 year period for the regeneration. She also felt it was too costly to a land owner.

Mr. Shank also felt it was too restrictive and would just create more spraying of chemicals. He was in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Chonka also was in favor of the amendment and not in favor of more restrictions.

Mrs. Hudson questioned the cost of the penalty?

Mr. Swinehart stated he was in favor of amending the existing Ordinance which he agreed to approve with the intent to amend.

Mr. Jacob closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Swinehart made a motion to adopt Ordinance #3-2017 an Ordinance of the Warwick Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance #1-2017, Protection of the Hopewell Bigwoods, amending the Warwick Township Zoning Ordinance, further amending the Zoning Ordinance Regarding the Forest Regeneration Plan Requirements and Guidelines as well as the Applicability Provisions Thereof, 2nd Mrs. Cameron, Mr. Swinehart and Mrs. Cameron voted Yeh, Mr. Jacob voted Ney, Motion carried.

Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., 2nd Mr. Swinehart, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Grimley, Secretary