

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE
PLANNING, PARKS & LIBRARY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, October 27, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOVE to accept minutes of June's meeting of the Commissioners Planning, Parks & Library Committee without reading.

REPORTS

- Report of Library Director
- Report of Parks & Recreation Director
- Report of Environmental Protection Advisory Board
- Report of Planning Commission

PRESENTATION

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Official Map Presentation and Discussion

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: December 22, 2015

A meeting of the Planning, Parks and Library Committee (PPL) of Upper Dublin Township (UDT) was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the Township Building, Sharon Damsker presiding.

In attendance were Commissioners Sharon Damsker, Rebecca Gushue and John Minehart. Also present were Paul Leonard, Township Manager; Richard Barton, Community Planner and Zoning Officer; Cheri Fiory, Director of the Upper Dublin Public Library (UDPL); Derek Dureka, Parks and Recreation (UDPR) Director; Alan Greve and Gordon Chase, representing the Environmental Protection Advisory Board (EPAB); and Gilbert High, Township Solicitor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Damsker asked all present to pledge allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Gushue motioned, with Mr. Minehart seconding, to accept the Minutes of the PPL meeting from June 2015 without reading.

VOTE ON MOTION

ALL YES

MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF THE UPPER DUBLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY (UDPL) DIRECTOR:

Cherilyn Fiory reported on the activities at the Upper Dublin Public Library (UDPL) between May and October 2015 as follows:

UDPL STEAM Lab:

Thanks to the Friends (Friends) of the Upper Dublin Public Library (UDPL), the UDPL has recently fully furnished the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Lab in the Library's Teen Space. A combination of mobile tables and stools along with cabinetry, a part of the Teen Space has now been transformed into a laboratory for students of all ages to interact with the STEAM lab tools. The 3D printers have now been moved from the staff workroom to the Lab.

The STEAM Lab took off officially this summer with the first line up of STEAM-inspired programs for middle and high school students. Students had the opportunity to experiment with many different types of technology. For example, some of the favorite activities included Squishy Circuits (electrical circuits that utilize Play-Dough to help conduct electricity), Hopscotch (a coding app that allows users to create their own mobile apps and games), Garage Band Ring Tones (a multi-instrument music program used to create original music that can then be used as cell phone ring tones), Bristle Bots (robots made from tiny motors and toothbrushes) and Stop Motion Animation (an animation technique using Play-Dough, digital cameras, and movie making software).

By the end of the summer, the UDPL had hosted twenty programs with a total attendance of 247 students in 6-12 grades. Participants were asked to complete surveys at the end of each session and results from the surveys indicate that 98.7% of students would return to participate in future STEAM Lab programs.

This fall, a different approach was taken with the Lab in order to introduce it to UDT generally. While there are formal, structured 3D printing classes, the UDPL staff has mostly been sharing the Lab tools with the community through mini open houses and scheduled visits and tours. This time was also used to find community partners to help support and sustain the Lab with time, knowledge and funds.

Upper Dublin School District (UDSD):

The school year started well. Following some Wi-Fi upgrades this summer, staff has seen and been able to support the usage of the Wi-Fi as students are at the UDPL after school using their Chromebooks. Also, during the last week of September, Head of Children's Services, Miss Jenn Sivers, hosted 2nd grade class visits from the four public elementary schools, a program participated in with UDSD for several years now.

WIFI Printing:

As of implementation in August, patrons may now print at home or from their device of choice and then pick up the print-out in the library. Additionally, this now allows patrons on the UDPL wireless network to print as well. Printing fees apply.

Programming:

The UDPL is hosting a variety of full classes this fall. Some of the new ones include Mother Goose on the Loose for babies and toddlers and their caregivers. This award-winning program uses rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instruments, and more to stimulate the learning process.

The UDPL just began hosting 3D printing classes as part of the UDPL STEAM Lab. As one can imagine, many people are interested in learning about 3D printing and seeing it in action. In fact, interest is so high and space is so limited that staff is now scheduling additional sessions as demand warrants.

The UDPL launched a small selection of foreign language and culture classes this fall after learning that the Upper Dublin Adult Evening School was scaling back their catalog of classes. The UDPL is offering Spanish, German and Chinese this fall (taught by Native speakers and Upper Dublin school teachers), and the response has been overwhelming. Half of the people interested in the Spanish class could not be accommodated.

Staff has also been experimenting this year with Friday evening cultural events, plays, musical performances, etc. Response has again been outstanding. The latest program took place on Friday night, October 23rd, with a performance of traditional Scottish dancing given by the Campbell School of Highland Dance out of Maple Glen. 80 people attended.

Upcoming Programs:

1. The UDPL's annual Family Halloween Party is scheduled for October 28th at 7 pm in the Library. Children in grades K -5 and their families are invited. Costumes were encouraged.
2. The 2nd annual Let's Discuss It event was hosted jointly with Wissahickon Valley Public Library.
 - Last year, the UDPL featured *Silver Linings Playbook* author Matthew Quick and his new novel at that time *The Good Luck of Right Now*.
 - This year, National Book Award Finalist Beth Kephart and her latest book, a collection of essays about Philadelphia, entitled *Love: A Philadelphia Affair* is being featured. Ms. Kephart will be speaking at the Ambler Theater on November 5th at 7:30 pm. She will examine how Philadelphia has influenced her writing while interweaving her stories with Temple student films.
 - This is a ticketed event. Tickets are free and available online and at the two libraries.
 - Participants are asked to tell about a place in Philadelphia that is special to them. Some of these memories will be shared at the program.
 - The Let's Discuss It event is being generously sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Ambler.

Pursuant to a request voiced at the recent Planning Commission Meeting, UDT is now placing all agendas and pertinent plans on its website for the Mattison Estate development. If someone does not have internet access, they can avail themselves of internet in the UDT Public Library.

REPORT OF UPPER DUBLIN PARKS AND RECREATION (UDPR) DIRECTOR:

Derek Dureka presented his report of activities of the Upper Dublin Parks and Recreation Department (UDPR) from May through October 2015:

Fort Washington Fire Company Hot Foot 8.8 Run:

Kudos to the members of the Fort Washington Fire Company and volunteers for a successful event.

Summer Programs:

- Staff did a wonderful job providing many week-long summer camps. Hundreds of individuals attended including 16 recipients who qualified for a scholarship because of their inability to pay. \$5,000 was expended on this program, and recipients were provided funding on a "match" basis.
- Averaged over 300 attendees at the Summer Concert Series at Temple Ambler during July and August.
- Held the first annual Mother/Son Cardboard Boat Regatta at the UDT community pool in August.

- In September, the Parks Four Mile Run (through Rose Valley Preserve, Robbins Park, and the Temple Ambler Campus). Raised over \$3,000 for the Summer Scholarship Fund. Thanks to participants and sponsors.
- Recently held Drive-In Movie at Temple Ambler. Showed the live action *Cinderella* to more than 300 attendees.
- Comical Kids Concert drew more than 250 at Mondauk Common.
- During October, UDPR has been conducting a pet food and supply drive. All donations will go to the Montgomery County SPCA.

Upcoming UDPR Events:

- December 12 – Radio City Music Hall.
- December 19 – New York City Day Trip.
- December 19 and 20 – Everybody’s Theatre Company will present “The Happy Elf” in the Upper Dublin High School auditorium.
- December and January – Disney on Ice tickets can be purchased.
- Now stocking Movie Tavern tickets. \$12.00 tickets are being sold for \$8.50 per ticket.
- Registration for the May 22, 2016 Upper Dublin Triathlon/Aqua Bike Race will begin on December 1st.
- Upper Dublin Monte Carlo Night is scheduled for February 20, 2016.

Open Space Advisory Group:

Prioritizing open space projects for future years.

Twining Valley Golf Club Feasibility Study:

- Staff met on September 15th to discuss creative amenities.
- A meeting is scheduled on November 10th to further finalize the amenities.
- It is hoped that a final public comment meeting will take place in November or December – date to be determined.

Park Storage and Overall UDT Building Room Usage:

- After an exhaustive search in and outside of UDT, the Parks Department recently moved into a location on New Jersey Drive where the UDSD’s bus garage is located. The lease runs until May 2017.
- Room use continues to be in high demand. As of the end of September, room use is up 154 permitted uses from last year (15%). Since 2010, use has increased 40%.
- On a daily basis, the UDPR is turning down one or two residents or groups. Some are one time uses and some are multiple uses.
- It was noted that the community rooms at the new fire station can be used on an as-needed basis.
- The UDSD has many more requests for space than availability. While there is some room available, the UDSD operates under many more restraints than UDT does.
- The UDPL is using community spaces for their programs. It is important for UDT to continue to look for more space.

- Ms. Gushue requested that Mr. Dureka start tracking those individuals and groups turned away from building room use.
- In 2014, 1,424 permanent events took place in the UDT Building as opposed to those in 2008 of 980.

Open Space Advisory Board:

- Prioritizing some projects that were previously in the Open Space Plan.

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARD (EPAB):

Alan Greve reported as follows:

EPAB Members:

Have had another resignation from the EPAB. Applications from interested parties are welcomed.

Craig-E-Nos Neighbors:

Several neighbors have been attending recent EPAB meetings regarding conditional use granted to three properties on Windsor and Twining. They are quite concerned about stormwater runoff.

Keystone Conservation Trust (Trust):

Mr. John Rodgers represented the Trust to discuss a project he was working on to develop a customizable best management practice manual for maintaining park space.

Native Plant Ordinance:

Rick Collier, UDT's Landscape Planner, spoke to the EPAB about UDT's Native Plant Ordinance and compared that to one of another municipality that has much more detail.

Report by Gordon Chase:

1. The Willowmere Homeowners Association requested that UDT approach the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in rehabilitating the section of the Rose Valley Creek that runs through the Willowmere property.
 - A preliminary site visit report has been submitted to Mr. Leonard.
 - At the moment, the Army Corps of Engineers is waiting for funding (probably spring of 2016) to look at this project in more detail. That will then give the ability to rehabilitate that area on a cost-splitting basis.
 - Raised the point that the beneficiaries of this flood mitigation program (because it is being done under Temple Ambler Flood Study of 2013) will be Ambler Borough, Whitpain Township and UDT.
 - The share of the costs which would normally go to UDT could be discussed with the foregoing entities.
2. Regarding the BORIT superfund site in Ambler, he suggested that perhaps the PPL members would like to visit the area to see how a project is being done correctly.

- The Feasibility Study as to what to do with the entire BORIT site has just been released to the BORIT Community Advisory Group, and it will be available to the public in 2-3 weeks.
- The emergency removal stage is now finished.
- The remediated Ambler site also sits in UDT, and is 25 years old now. The last inspection by the Environmental Protection Agency is that some disturbances have been found.
- Mr. Chase has been pushing the University of Pennsylvania (who received a \$10 million grant to study asbestos in Ambler) to look at air monitoring. He plans to travel to the United Kingdom to do extensive information-gathering on this matter.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION (PC):

Mr. Barton reported on behalf of Wesley Wolf, Chairperson of the PC, who was unable to attend the PPL meeting this evening. He commented as follows:

1. A Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for Life Time Fitness (LTF) - Fort Washington has been submitted for the vacant property at 375 Commerce Drive. The 13.28 net acre parcel is zoned EC - Employment Center and is a receiving parcel in the TDR overlay district. Portions of the site are within the 100-year floodplain. A two-story fitness center is proposed with an outdoor pool area, bistro, and parking for 585 vehicles.

The project obtained variances from the Zoning Hearing Board (file #2153, 8/24/15) for building height, setback, and signs; to allow construction within the floodplain district, and to permit driveways and parking areas within the floodplain to be constructed of impervious paving materials. The proposed first floor elevation will be approximately 5 ft. above the current estimated base flood elevation. Conditional use approval was granted on September 8, 2015 (file #2154) to allow paving and utility work in the floodplain.

Site access is proposed from two full movement driveways, one on Delaware Avenue Drive and one on Commerce Drive. As requested through coordination with LTF, the Site Plan also identifies a future shared driveway that will provide access from the site to a new signalized intersection being constructed as part of an independent UDT project, the Fort Washington Cross County Trail & Road Diet (CCT&RD).

The mid-block Commerce Drive access location is planned as an interim condition. As presented in the Fort Washington CCT&RD project, the shared driveway will serve both this property and 335 Commerce Drive and tie into a new signalized intersection. Through coordination with Boles, Smyth, the trip distribution for the site should reflect the shared driveway location with the interim driveway location either removed or with turn restrictions to reflect ultimate site access conditions upon completion of the shared driveway.

2. Lindenwold Residential Associates, LLC has filed a conditional use application for the 45 acre tract known as St. Mary's Villa / The Mattison Estate. It is proposed to develop a "Historic Preservation Mixed Residential Community" under the terms of the Mixed Use Residential - Historic District (MRH, per Zoning Code, Article XXXVII).

On November 11, 2014 the Board of Commissioners rezoned the property from Institutional to MRH.

- Many residents were in the audience to listen to the presentations.
- This is the first step of what will be months of review.
- Use: Mixed residential with townhouses, twin homes and senior living apartments, Preservation of the castle, stone walls, gatehouses, etc.
- The existing lake will no longer be classified as a dam by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore that means UDT will have to route some of that water into a stream which will require extensive engineering review.
- The first public hearing will possibly be held in March 2016.

Next month, the PC will be looking at two other projects.

- 280 Dreshertown Road Minor Subdivision Plan.
- The Piszek property.

Mr. Leonard informed:

- Seventy percent of the Piszek property will be open space. That space has already been commissioned over to Montgomery County and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) along the Sandy Run.
- Sal Paone bought the property as an approved plan.
- Many of the details regarding open space have been worked out and embedded in legal covenants.
- UDT is hopeful to see trails run along Pennsylvania Avenue from one end of the property to the other, along Dreshertown Road from one end of the property to the other, and allow residents to be able to walk as far up as Bridge Street to catch a train.

Ms. Gushue asked that water levels of the Sandy Run be watched as the development goes forward.

- Abington Township has been piping water into their stormwater system, which goes right into the Sandy Run.
- Neighbors claim to see a rise in water that has been coming down over the past few years.
- Asked staff to make sure any development along the Sandy Run going through the property is raised high enough to make sure it is out of the flood zone.

Mr. Barton interjected that even if this area were to flood, the land on both sides has already been preserved. And there is enough buffer area being preserved.

PRESENTATION BY THE WISSAHICKON VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WVWA):

Dennis Moran, Executive Direction of the WVWA explained as follows:

- The WVWA is in the midst of doing outreach related to water quality, open space, development, repairing corridor, flooding, and water.
- An open space plan ought to look at repairing corridors, floodplain, wetlands, and well fields. If those are not identified today, the UDT Open Space Plan should be revised.

- At the WVWA, they have been doing water quality monitoring for many years, have preserved in fee or in easement nearly 1,300 acres, have ongoing restoration projects and education outreach as is being done this evening.
- The Wissahickon Valley Watershed is in the Delaware Valley Watershed.
- The Wissahickon Valley Watershed begins at Montgomery Mall and encompasses 64 sq. miles and 115 miles of stream.
- This region provides at least 10% of the drinking water for Philadelphians.
- UDT encompasses 90% of the land area in the watershed – 23,100 out of 25,600.
- The Sandy Run sub-watershed is a major concern for issues of stormwater runoff and flooding in the region.
- What happens to waterways that are affected by urban development - oil grit from cars, road salt, nutrients, fertilizers, food wrappers, and Styrofoam coffee cups, etc. all find their way into the Wissahickon.
- The Wissahickon is a straight waterway.
 - If it ever had elbows, we straightened it out.
 - If it had wetlands around it, we filled it in.
 - If we ever had an opportunity to stick a stormwater outwater and a headwater tributary, we've done it to all of foregoing.
- The Wissahickon Watershed is designed to be a fast-flowing, very flashy situation, and the above happens every time.
 - Shorelines are beaten back.
 - Soils are exposed.
 - Sometimes, the shoreline is 8-10 ft. above the waterline, and that is caused by the flashiness of a volume of water that plows through a bed that no longer can sustain that amount of water.
 - As the stream widens, the sediment buries in the bed creating shallow water conditions, and the sediment brings stones into the bottom of the creek itself. That sediment chokes off plants that can produce oxygen and creates poor conditions for aquatic life.
 - Algae blooms in the Wissahickon, and that affects water quality.
- Regulatory history:
 - The total maximum daily load requirements of sediment were established by the EPA in 2003.
 - The nutrients were established in 2003 and updated in 2005.
 - The total phosphorus limit has changed.
 - Now struggling with the MS4s.
 - The EPA has set a standard that most municipalities cannot reach.
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Alternative:
 - The EPA has staked us out to do a stakeholder process.
 - All permittees (16 municipalities and 4 wastewater treatment plants) are in a collaborate group process to pool their benefits to reduce costs of managing stormwater.
 - This approach has the blessing of both the EPA and DEP and is a pilot project in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
 - The Clean Water Act was passed in 1974, and we have yet to overcome those issues.
 - Among other partners, the WVWA is working with the following:
 - The Pennsylvania Environmental Council

- Montgomery County Planning Commission
- Temple University's Office of Sustainable Communities
- University of Maryland's Environmental Center
- The Pennsylvania Environmental Council has gone to the William Penn Foundation for an additional \$1.2 million to help subsidize this process going forward.

The following discussion ensued:

- Mr. Leonard:
- 90% of UDT is in this watershed. It represents 14 ½% of the watershed of the Wissahickon.
 - The potential cost to UDT was estimated to be significant (hundreds of millions of dollars for compliance with the proposed TMDL).
 - To make the Wissahickon and UDT compliant with the 1974 Clean Water Act, the EPA said there is going to be a standard that must be achieved and they chose phosphorus. However, the standard set does seem unattainable by many people including good scientists who went back to pre-colonial times.

- Mr. Moran:
- He cannot qualify one set of facts over another.
 - UDT still zones for traditional development.
 - Every additional development in the region gets us further and further away from any challenge faced today.
 - This issue will continue to get worse if the problem is not tackled on a landscape level.
 - There must be a real robust open space plan.
 - A natural resource inventory that that recognizes all the limiting factors on landscape is warranted.
 - UDT has to be very agnostic and very objective about where they need to preserve.
 - If one looks at where the Sandy Run begins, it is a concrete culvert built in the 1950s (an Army Corps of Engineers project) to facilitate running the water out of the neighborhood, but that probably was built where there were once wetlands.
 - These problems are not going to go away by merely looking at the landscape and finding "Band-Aids" where there should be "tourniquets."
 - UDT cannot solve these problems by itself any more than the Borough of Ambler can. All the municipalities and all the dischargers have to come to the table and recognize that communities have been built at the expense of the water resource and now we have to come back and fix it.

- Mr. Leonard:
- UDT is:
 - 97% developed.
 - Ahead of many municipalities.
 - Has been investing in MS 4 standards.
 - Has inventoried all of its inlets.

- Has very strong stormwater management.
- Has detention basins.
- Has been retrofitting 3-5 per year with best practices.
- Is doing the educational components.
- Sweeps its streets to eliminate sediment build-up.
- Does not think it will be a target of the regulation except as part of the group.
- Can defend what has been done and an environmental record is being kept.

Mr. Moran: The FWOP was built on wetlands. UDT may have opportunities to restore the wetlands today.

Ms. Gushue:

- UDT has a Transfer Development Right Ordinance. Hoping that more people will be taking advantage of it.
- It is great to see that the wetlands are being restored to wetland status again.

Mr. Leonard: UDT is interested in the WVWA assisting with educating some of its landowners.

Mr. Moran:

- The WVWA is in contact with other environmental groups and conduct an on-the-ground grass roots approach to educating the public.
- It will take the public many years to change the way they do business.
- The glorified lawn has got to go.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Official Map Presentation:

Mr. Barton said one of the tools that UDT can utilize to obtain land for open space purposes is the official map that has been the subject of extensive work by the Township Solicitor.

Test case:

Last month, Mr. Barton received a telephone call from Tim Woodrow, an engineer and architect. He related that a couple is looking to buy a 10 acre property at 385 Ambler Road. They would like to subdivide it. This property is on the proposed official map. The property backs up to the SEPTA rail line and is heavily wooded. There is a beautiful 1900 era stone home in the front of the property.

The following discussion took place:

Mr. Barton:

- For any subdivision purposes, one must look at the subdivision boundaries.
- This property is split zoned which is rather rare in UDT.

- The front of the property, which goes back approximately 240 ft., is considered “A” residential.
- There is one home in the front of that property today.
- The entire rear area is zoned “EC” because the property adjacent to it is a light industrial site.
- Believes the thinking of UDT years ago was that light industrial would follow the path along the rail line. Therefore, the properties that back up to the rail line to a certain depth are zoned “EC” for light industrial use. All of the properties have vacant land behind them, and the industrial use has stopped at the boundary of 385 Ambler Road.
- The existing home is two story with an expansive porch made of mahogany.
- The homeowners are looking to sell the property, but as part of that sale, they want to see if the frontage of the property might be sub dividable.
- Mr. Woodrow divided the area into two additional home sites plus one flag lot on the “EC” portion.
- Mr. Barton advised the prospective buyers that houses are not permitted in “EC” and they might have a problem unless they rezone the property.
- The prospective buyers may be better off to have a subdivision of two additional homes in the “A” area but perhaps negotiating with UDT for that back area to be open space (roughly 6 acres of ground).

- Mr. Leonard:
- This is just one case in many.
 - The PC has been working on the official map for more than a year. They have identified every property that UDT might want to consider so that staff, property owners, potential developers, everyone is alerted to the fact that it might be for sale or up for development.
 - The official map is also a significant constraint on the property.
 - Only three municipalities in Montgomery County use an official map as of the present time. They don’t realize what a powerful tool it is.
 - If the BOC were to adopt the official map, what would be the constraints on the property? How does it come into play with what was heard tonight?

- Mr. High:
- By the adoption of an official map that shows the desire to obtain a property, whether for purposes of open space or any other legitimate municipal purpose, a constraint is put on the ability to develop that property, and if the owner of the property wants to develop it, one must give notice that UDT must either acquire the property or lift the constraint that is imposed by the map on that property. If UDT does not do that within one year of when the notice is given, then the property can be developed without the constraint of being on an official map. Therefore, it actually is a way where UDT can put a hold on the development of property for a period of a year, minimum, while UDT decides what it wishes to do with the property.
 - It is a serious business to adopt an official map because you are affecting a lot of property owners. On the other hand, it is a tool which UDT can use to

hold off the development of a property of serious interest to UDT for the benefit of the public.

- Mr. Leonard:
- A number of commissioners contacted him last year concerned about Temple University adopting a new Master Plan.
 - Page 47 of the Plan suggests that the university consider selling a large portion of their Ambler campus (the old Temple Music Fair area).
 - Met with officials of Temple University, and it was suggested that UDT have the right of first refusal, but Temple University declined the right of first refusal.
 - While UDT does not have the right of first refusal, if that property were to come up for sale UDT does have the opportunity to purchase it at the market rate.

Mr. Minehart: How about disputes over paper streets?

Mr. Leonard: Of the opinion that the official map will not solve paper street problems, but if there are a number of areas where a development is foreseen going through, the official map is a good way to do that.

Mr. High: It doesn't prevent a property owner from being able to secure just compensation for his property. It just gives the public the ability to put a hold on development.

Ms. Gushue:

- How would this impact the rights of owners who own property?
- What type of delays would this cause the homeowner if they were looking to sell or subdivision?

Mr. High:

- The property owner could give notice to UDT that it wants that property removed from the map.
- The period UDT has to act on is one year.
- It does put a hold on the property, but if the resident says he really needs to sell the property, he can ask UDT to review the official map and to reassess the desire of UDT to acquire it.

Mr. Leonard: State statute specifically says that being listed on the official map is not a "take."

Ms. Gushue: Have we lost any land due to not having an official map.

Mr. Leonard: Yes.

Mr. High:

- The ability of the property owner to come to UDT is still there.
- UDT can make a decision promptly upon receiving the request to remove the property from the official map.

- If UDT knows it is not going to acquire a property within a year, there is no reason why UDT cannot change the map right away.
- If UDT does know that it wants to acquire the property within a year, it can set about to do so with the individual owner who wants to sell it.

- Mr. Leonard:
- The PC does not have many properties in mind.
 - The process of adopting an Official Township Map is one of full disclosure.
 - Before the Official Township Map comes to the BOC, there will be ample time to look at it.

Ms. Damsker: This is something that must be discussed with the BOC.

Requests for Placing Lawn Signs on Township Property:

The following discussion took place:

- Mr. Dureka:
- The influx of requests to place lawn signs on UDT property is becoming a burden on staff.
 - Some residents feel that the signs are an eyesore.
 - The Parks and Recreation Department (UDPR) only places the signage at Mondauk Common (corners at Susquehanna and Broad, and Susquehanna and Dillon) two weeks prior to an event.
 - Sometimes, UDPR will have up to thirty signs ready to be placed.
 - Typically, the resident is asked to retrieve the signs.
 - At some of the other parks, UDPR allows sports organizations and other UDT-based organizations to place signage within the park or open space land.
 - UDPR is suggesting that only a sign of an organization based in UDT or where an event is occurring in UDT can be placed.
 - Also, there is a growing problem of what can be displayed.
 - Would like to restrict the signage to the size of a lawn sign (18 " x 24").
 - Will have no more than 5 signs on each corner.
 - Residents will be required to remove the signs within 5 days of an event.

- Mr. Leonard:
- This is a challenge because UDT has a Temporary Sign Regulation.
 - UDT does not make distinctions between types of speech – political, commercial, and non-profit, etc., but in UDT's ownership capacity, Mr. Dureka is trying to give permission to people based on content.
 - Asked Mr. High if UDT, as a property owner, has the ability to allow signs like this at parks, how does this dovetail with the Zoning Ordinance and State Statutes which restrict UDT's ability to regulate these things.

- Mr. High:
- Part of the problem is being able to choose which signs can be displayed.
 - Once you start to allow signs at a particular location, one has to be cautious that all signs might have to be allowed because of their content.

- It is a First Amendment issue as well as a property-owner issue.
- Who it is putting a sign up is the second problem. Are we discriminating against one particular group?

Mr. Leonard:

- Regarding UDPR's possibility to limit signs that compete with UDT functions, people could argue that the signs are being placed in public space.
- Has seen other communities end up saying they do not want any signs.

Ms. Damsker: Opined that no signs should be placed on Township property.

Mr. Leonard:

- For UDT staff to say no to the Little League, etc. requires absolute support from the entire BOC.
- Staff will work on this and get a policy back for discussion before the PPL.

Ms. Damsker: Suggested only allowing signs having to do with UDT-related activities.

Mr. High: Will look at her suggestion and come back with an opinion.

Ms. Gushue: Hates to hamper any of the UDT-related organizations.

Mr. Minehart: What about signs on utility poles?

Mr. Leonard: State Statute forbids signs on utility poles.

ADJOURNMENT:

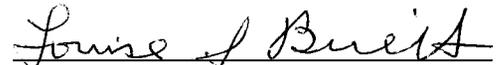
Ms. Damsker motioned, with Mr. Minehart seconding, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION

ALL YES

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,


Louise S. Birett, Recording Secretary

Attest:


Rebecca Gushue, Chairperson

