

East Goshen Township

Futurist Committee

May 21, 2020

Present

- Tom Kilburn (Chair)
- Rod Vaughn (Vice Chair)
- Brandon Groff, Member
- Brian Sweet, Member
- Jon Altshul, Staff Liaison
- Jeff O'Donnell, Guest

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Tom called for a moment of silence for all professionals on the front lines including all medics, the police department and the fire department.

Tom introduced Jeff and stated that he is interested in joining the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Rod made a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2020. Brandon seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business

Tom stated that Jon Altshul is the official liaison for the Futurist Committee. Jon provided a financial status update. He explained that the current economic slowdown will impact the Township's earned income tax and real estate transfer tax. The full effect will not be known until August 2020. He also explained that the police budget will need to be amended to reflect the award from the police arbitration labor negotiations. Jon explained that budget cuts, such as deferring the dredging of the Bow Tree Pond, deferring the remaining of the Marydell Pond Planting, and managing the ABC's cash flow, have been proposed. He stated that the County Administrators are pushing for the county to the yellow phase by 6/4/20.

Rod explained that he contacted Governor Wolf, PA Secretary of Health, county and state representative, state senators, and school superintendents regarding the reporting of the number of COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes compared to deaths outside of nursing homes.

Rod expressed his to support Jon on the budget cuts.

Tom explained that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) assigned the Committee three (3) objectives back in March 2020.

1. Community Outreach

- Tom asked the members for input on how to address community outreach. Rod stated that the group could advocate community leaders through email and encourage participation in the Futurist Committee meetings. He also suggested publishing an article in the EGT newsletter.

- Jon agreed and stated that if the article was to be published in the next newsletter, it is due within the week.
- Brandon agreed to write an article and will forward to Jon.
- There was discussion about how to obtain community leader emails. Jon stated that EGT Staff could help with the HOA emails.
- Jeff asked for some background information regarding community outreach. Tom explained that they would like to tap into the silent majority. There was discussion regarding the town center and how the proposed zoning changes were not well received by residents. Tom explained that education for alternate development such as different housing options other than 1-acre sites is needed.
- Brian stated that in addition to residents, the BOS needs to be on board with the proposed zoning changes.
- Jon suggested that the committee wait to contact residents until the after PPT trail is complete. He explained that people may begin to view things differently once the trail is complete.
- Brian suggested that they could begin compiling a list of emails now and begin discussion with some community leaders.

2. Vision Statement

There was discussion regarding the Futurist Committee vision statement. Tom indicated that the vision statement needs to be reviewed by all committee members. Once a statement is finalized, the members can make a recommendation to the BOS.

Tom concluded that at the next meeting the Committee would:

- Discuss and support a Futurist Vision Statement
- Develop a communications plan
- Discuss how to begin gathering an email list

3. Business Park Strategic Plan

- Tom stated that the Township needs to be prepared for the future of our business parks. He also stated that the Committee would need to work with the Planning Commission. Brian agreed and added that the committee needs to discuss first among themselves.
- Tom stated that he would contact David Shuey for a status regarding what he (David) and Marty already may have done on this subject.
- Brian agreed to reach out to Ernie Harkness on the Planning Commission to touch base on this topic.

Next Meeting

The next Futurist Committee Meeting will be on June 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

Meeting Adjournment

Tom asked for meeting adjournment at 8:15 p.m. and Ron seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan D'Amore