



Upper Mount Bethel Township
387 Ye Olde Highway
P.O. Box 520
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220
Phone: (570) 897-6127 Fax: (570) 897-0108
www.umbt.org

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held in person and live streamed through the Township Facebook page.

I.

Chairman Teel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were Chairman Teel, Commissioner Crane, Commissioner Klein, Commissioner Potter, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Solicitor Karasek, who arrived at 7:20 pm. Commission Sarisky was absent.

Chairman Teel gave the format for tonight's Special Planning Commission Meeting:

- a. John Wichner, from McMahon Associates, will be giving a presentation on the Traffic Analysis.
- b. Township Engineer Coyle will provide comments.
- c. Commissioners will ask questions.
- d. Chairman Teel will open it up for public comment.
- e. Finally, Chairman Teel will comment.

John Wichner, McMahon Associates, stated that they represent Municipalities, PennDOT, Counties and Private Sectors. They specialize exclusively in transportation engineering. John gave a presentation on the traffic analysis for 303 Demi Rd., RPL East, RPL East South, River Pointe Planned Industrial Park, Phase I and Phase II. Mr. Wichner showed compared results of the ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) Data and LVIP (Lehigh Valley Industrial Park) VII traffic calculations. The LVIP VII shows traffic may be 68% less than estimated by ITE.

Further study areas will include the railroad overpass on River Rd, Rt. 611 Interchange Rt. 611/Potomac St., Rt. 611/Rt. 512 interchange. Stakeholders include UMBT, Portland Borough, LVPC, PennDOT, DRJBC, Fire Departments and Norfolk Southern. Future monitoring of traffic conditions, applicant anticipates continued monitoring of traffic

conditions as buildings are constructed. Reduced trip generation as compared to Master Plan traffic studies is anticipated.

Engineer Coyle thanked Mr. Wichner for the presentation and stated that they have come to a mutual understanding. Engineer Coyle reiterated Mr. Wichner's areas of concerns. Engineer Coyle stated, from a traffic standpoint, they are doing their best to guide this project.

Lou Pektor stated as information is gathered, they will share.

Chairman Teel stated there will be additional meetings held to discuss sewer and stormwater management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Francis Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on her concerns of air/noise pollution, broken down trucks on Rt. 611, and the request to reduce the speed limit on Rt. 611.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on the amount of traffic on the Rt. 611 corridor, which impacts all areas. Air pollution being a problem, cancer, property values. Charlie stated he asked a resident if we could do away with trucks, what would that be worth to you, they replied they would pay \$100 a month not to have truck traffic. The community cannot handle the size of the development.

Dave Friedman, Township Supervisor, Gap View Lane, commented on the Railroad Trestle, that it should be a major concern. John Wichner stated that there are long term plans to look at the trestle. There was a discussion on the size of the buildings/cube warehouses and traffic studies.

Howard Klein, Riverton Rd., commented on the Township's requirements for advertising meetings, LVPC evaluation of the proposed development, area of influence, Rt.33 to RPL.

Eleanor Shelton, Heiden Rd., commented on knowing what the plan is for traffic 10 years from now.

Patricia Dewitsky, N. Delaware Dr., commented on the noise from Rt. 611 and the effect it has on her quality of life.

Sharon Duffield, Potomac St., commented on everything that is going around all around us, do the studies include the expansions around us.

Lisa Pektor, RPL, the trail line is being taken into effect.

John Bermingham, Township Supervisor, Red Fox Ln., commented on the text amendment getting passed, we lost control.

David Clunie, Heiden Rd., commented on the traffic, if Rt. 80 closes, what happens to Rt. 611.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct., commented on having a question/answer session, will tonight's presentation be made available to the community.

Adele Staars, Knowlton Township Mayor, commented on the good working relationship they have with the Township and would like to be included as a stakeholder. Adele stated her concerns on air quality studies.

Resident of Martins Creek, commented on the traffic on Front Street in Martins Creek, the noise, air quality, speeding, and the lack of law enforcement.

Samantha Burns, Lower Mount Bethel Township Supervisor, commented on the amount truck traffic through Martins Creek.

Jim Potter stated he had 28 years with PennDOT and is very familiar with the numbers that John presented.

Frank Klein stated a copy of the presentation should be available to the Township for our records. Should the DEP Air Quality Division be a stakeholder, they could weigh in on the truck pollution. Has the rail sighting been looked at?

Chairman Teel stated there will be more meetings scheduled and he is working with RPL on the users coming into area.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Teel stated the meeting is adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary