

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
COUNTY OF MONROE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2024, AT 7 P.M.  
MEETING MINUTES

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair Scott Amori. Along with Commissioner Amori, Commissioners Chris Bowers, Dr. Nicole Carney, Robert Moses, James Munet, Douglas Schryver, and David Strunk are physically present in the meeting room at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center, located at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. The meeting was also streamed via Zoom.

**2. Members Present**

In addition to the above Commissioners, other Township officials who attended the meeting were Supervisor Robert Lovenheim, Solicitor Ronold J. Karasek, Esquire, Township Engineer Jon S. Tresslar, PE and PLS, Administrative Coordinator Dyana Salvi, Conservation & Recreation Director Alex Jackson, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Martha Carbone and Brett Cartwright.

**3. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** is recited.

**4. Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 14, 2023**

Commissioner Amori motions to approve the minutes, Commissioner Schryver seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 11, 2024**

Commissioner Amori motions to approve the minutes, with a request for a change in the attendance of Chris Bowers. A Commissioner seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.

**5. New Business and Plans to Act Upon:**

**a. Land Development Plan- Franklin Hill Manor- Tabled**

The Franklin Hill Manor Plan has an active extension through March 29, 2024.

Commissioner Amori motions to table the Land Development Plan, Commissioner Strunk seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

**b. Discuss: Lighting Concerns in Smithfield Township**

David Strunk asks for clarification regarding the enforcement of light and noise ordinances for Zoning and SALDO. Ronold Karasek clarifies the issuing of a standalone ordinance, stating the option would regulate all new projects. Preexisting business could fall exception to the rules. Robert Lovenheim suggests the use of a stand-alone ordinance and references previous delays within citing Zoning regulations. Douglas Schryver suggests the possibility of combining noise and light as a nuisance ordinance. Robert Lovenheim advises

against the use of LED lighting, because of a possible safety threat to drivers. He also discusses the possibility of dimmable lighting on signs. Pocono Beer and an automotive repair shop are referenced as posing hazardous LED lighting. David Strunk references a cigarette store which is currently operating with a lack of lighting enforcement. Ronold Karasek references the lack of Zoning Enforcement. Julia Heilakka states that the Zoning Officer will not enforce lighting without first receiving training from PSATS. Residential lighting is a concern, yet commercial lighting is the main priority. Scott Amori discusses regulations for lighting and references an international dark sky ordinance. The Commission debates the option of a standalone ordinance versus a Zoning Law. Julia Heilakka has contacted PSATS and is waiting to hear back about the Zoning Officer's light training. Ronold Karasek references ordinance 208 and SALDO regulation which discuss lighting. Julia Heilakka clarifies that lighting does not fall under current Zoning regulations. Alex Jackson will be moving forward with creating a lighting ordinance.

Commissioner Amori motions to table Lighting Concerns to the next meeting on March 14, 2024, Commissioner Strunk seconds. Vote: all in favor: motion carries.

**c. Discuss: Letter(s) of interest for the Environmental Advisory Council**

The Environmental Advisory Council is accepting letters of interest to Alex Jackson. The council is parallel to the responsibilities of the Planning Commission, with a focus on environmental matters. It will hold monthly scheduled meetings and is asking for a member of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to join as a requirement to the ordinance. There will be seven members of the advisory panel that are citizens of the township. These letters of consideration will be received through the end of February. More information is available through the township website at [smithfieldtownship.com](http://smithfieldtownship.com); with letters of inquiry sent to [alex@smithfieldtownship.com](mailto:alex@smithfieldtownship.com). Advertising of the council is discussed among the commission. Martha Carbone suggests the use of a newsletter and QR codes posted within the community.

**6. Old and Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Public Comments:**

- a. Brett Cartwright addresses concerns relating to lighting at Pocono Beer. He spoke with the business owner to redirect his LED sign.

**8. Adjournment:**

There being no other business before the Commission, Commissioner Amori motions to adjourn, the Commissioners second. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

Minutes Recorded by: Dyana Salvi

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Heilakka, Township Secretary  
Smithfield Township