JENKINTOWN BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday September 17th, 2024

Attendees: Jon McCandlish, Phil Zimmerman, Peter Van Do, Shari Neidich, Lucinda Bartley, Eric Horowitz

Also present: George Locke (Jenkintown Borough Manager and Zoning Officer), Claire Warner (MCPC)

Others in attendance: Steve Spindler, Joanne Bruno, Maureen Lucak and others, also streamed on Facebook.

Above noted names may be referenced by initials in the meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 JM (EH) with a roll call, confirming that six members were present, including Claire Warner from the Montgomery County Planning Commission who joined in place of Marley Bice for this meeting.

Public Comment

Public comments were requested but none were received.

Reports/Actions

• P.C. Meeting Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes from August were briefly discussed. Individuals who took notes had not submitted them yet. EH said he could assist by organizing their notes when presented to him.

New Business / Business for Discussion

- Approved Plant List- This item was not reviewed this evening.
- Chapter 181 Zoning Article XIV Off-Street Parking and Loading (Code Review and Discussion)

GL noted LB's interest in reviewing parking regulations due to several applications requesting parking relief. The conversation highlighted the challenges of parking in a largely built-out borough like Jenkintown while balancing commercial development and maintaining town character. Discussion touched on seeing how other municipalities manage similar issues and it was offered that a parking study would be able to help with that. Signage and notifying Google maps and Apple Maps where parking is available would help. It is difficult to find parking in Jenkintown if you are not familiar with the borough. Any maps should show free parking availability at Lindy Properties after 6 pm. It was agreed to keep the topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ongoing Business

• Bike and Pedestrian Safety (Sub-Committee update)

This sub-committee had not met since the last reported efforts due to scheduling conflicts. Those present discussed the importance of creating complete streets, and Steve shared a valuable resource about complete streets webinars that would aid the subcommittee's efforts.

 Greenwood Avenue (Former Cedar Street/Glanzmann) Properties – Borough Parking Lot Rentals, Future Land Use Discussion

JM summarized the past year of discussion around potential uses for the property, including community space and housing development, while highlighting documents that detail possible actions moving forward. JB raised concerns about the legal requirements for introducing residential development in the town center, noting necessary ordinance changes or variances.

• Short Term Rentals (Under Solicitor's Review)

The short-term rentals topic remains under the solicitor's review with no updates.

• Zoning Review Update (Various House Keeping / Language Corrections)

No report this month.

• 181-141 Off-Premises Signs Ordinance (Tabled – ongoing discussion)

The zoning review of off-premises signs ordinances are still tabled pending resolution of an appeal.

Other Business

George informed the group about potentially expanding the Planning Commission to include more members, citing four current applicants and the benefits of having a broader range of perspectives.

Adjournment

As no further topics were raised, the meeting concluded with an early adjournment, with the next meeting scheduled for October 15. The members thanked each other for their participation and contributions throughout the evening. Motion to adjourn JM (PZ) at 7:13.