

**PENN TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
228 CLIFFORD ROAD, SELINGROVE  
November 13, 2023**

**Members present included:** Chris Fetter, Brian Wentzel, Dan Kuruna, Laura Fellencer, Jon Payne, Marvin Weaver and Ken Herman Jr.

**Members Excused:** Robert Grayston

**Also Present:** Manager Julie Hartley, Supervisor Isaac Ramer Jr. and Solicitor Jim Bathgate

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Wentzel at 6:34 pm.**

**On motion by Ken Herman Jr. and seconded by Chris Fetter, and carried on a 5-0 vote with Dan Kuruna abstaining, the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Planning Commission meeting were approved as presented.**

**Persons to be Heard:** None

**New Business:**

Tim Hornberger Response to Cottontail Solar 6 Inspection Report – Tim noted that his job is to gain voluntary compliance. He will only turn an item in to DEP if there are two inspections with the same concern that were not addressed. He will be meeting with Cottontail Solar 6 again in the future to discuss concerns.

**Old Business:**

Agricultural/Open Space Trail – Tabled

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Page 22, Section 402 B 5 a – When asked why change to three (3) feet to one (1) feet of horizontal measurement for fills instead of four (4), Chad Shaffer answered that this is “the generally accepted slope for a fill area”. The Planning Commission agreed to change the Ordinance to reflect Chad’s recommendation. A final draft will be presented to the Planning Commission at their next meeting.

**New Business (Continued):**

Ordinance Review, “Keeping Chickens in Residential Areas” – Jim supplied a sample ordinance from Benner Township, Centre County entitled “Regulating the Keeping of Chickens in Residential Areas in Benner Township”. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance and agreed to add the following to the Zoning Ordinance regarding chickens:

- 1) Section 5, A: Unlawful to Allow Chickens to Run at Large – It shall be unlawful for the owner or owners of any chickens to allow their chickens to run at large upon adjoining properties, any of the common thoroughfares, sidewalks, passageways, play areas, parks, streets, alleys, or public or private highways or any place where people congregate or walk, or upon public or private property in Penn Township.
- 2) Section 5 B: Sanitary Requirements for Housing of Chickens – Any owner of chickens or roosters (for the purpose of this section defined as “chicken or chickens”) within the limits of the Municipality shall be required to house the chickens at all times under sanitary conditions so that the keeping of chickens shall not become either a public or private nuisance. The following provisions apply. 1. All chicken feces accumulated on private property shall be disposed of in a proper and sanitary way. 2. Chicken feces on private property shall not be allowed to accumulate to the degree that it becomes a public health nuisance or hazard. In cases where chicken feces do accumulate on private property, the Ordinance Enforcement Officer and/or other designated official may conduct an investigation, after which the accumulation may be declared a public health hazard or nuisance and the owner shall be ordered to remove and dispose of the accumulated feces in an approved manner. The order to remove such accumulated feces shall be hand-delivered to the owner or shall be sent by certified mail. The owner shall be given a period of 48 hours from the date and time of receipt of the order to clean the property and remove the accumulated feces.
- 3) Section 5 C: Composting – Chicken manure may be composted on the property where the chickens are housed and the composted material then applied to gardens.
- 4) Section 5 D: Slaughtering or Butchering – Slaughtering or butchering of chickens for personal consumption or religious practices shall be permitted providing any waste is disposed of in a proper and sanitary way.

**Bright Farms Update** – Bright Farms has been moving in the right direction to get their Land Development approval. They have received an increase in water allowance from PTMA which has been assured that the increased consumption will not affect their well's ability to service other customers. PTMA is also pursuing an alternate well site and has purchased two new pumps according to Isaac Ramer Jr.

**Public Comment:** None

**FYI:**

- Bright Farms – Final LD, filed 6.17.20, due 1.26.24
- Daniel Habegger, Subdivision, filed 7.6.23, due 1.2.24
- Ronald & Ryan Herman, Add-on Subdivision, filed 8.24.23, due 11.22.23

**Adjournment** – On motion by Jon Payne, and seconded by Laura Fellencer, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Hartley, Township Manager