CALL TO ORDER

President Martin called the June 3, 2020 Board of Commissioners regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, and noted the privilege citizens have of voting in the Primaries, which took place the day before. A moment of silence was observed, and The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll Call was taken by Mr. Fazekas. President Martin said he added several new things to the agenda and there will be an Executive Session at the conclusion of the public meeting for a personnel issue.

PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

President Martin asked for any comments or corrections to the Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. There were none, and Commissioner Cochran made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting, SECONDED by Commissioner Walter. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

President Martin welcomed the residents who have signed in to speak, and said there will be an opportunity during respective agenda items to speak on those items, and then at the end there will be a time for public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items for consideration.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

President Martin asked Chief Adams for an update on the stacking issues being noticed at the McDonald’s drive-thru on Bumblebee Hollow Road, as discussed previously. Chief Adams said he
directed a traffic safety officer to take a look at the situation. He said he forwarded his suggestions in an email to Board members, but in summary, he said between May 21 and May 27 his officers checked 12 times, primarily during the lunchtime hours of 12 noon to about 1:30. Of those 12 times, there was backup onto Bumble Bee Hollow Road 5 times and backup onto Route 114 once. He said the issue is that if McDonald’s isn’t willing or able to accommodate the drive-thru traffic on-site, they are not violating any law so there is nothing the Police Department can do from an enforcement standpoint. He said if you want to make a right turn at any intersection and traffic is backed up, you wait. So, therefore, for people trying to turn in, the Police Department will be hard pressed to enforce it in the current configuration. He said his only suggestion, which is not necessarily a good one, is to restrict Route 114 right-turn traffic during the lunch hour. As examples of similar situations, he said at Route 15 north approaching Boscov’s, all side streets prohibit right turns during the morning rush hour; and north on Route 15 in Lower Allen Township at the Slate Hill Road exit, there is a restricted right turn at the first street to the right. He said both are PennDOT highways, as is Route 114. So he said right now that is the only suggestion he has; however, if done, then he said we run the possibility that traffic will go down to Bowman’s Hill and turn around for access to McDonald’s.

Commissioner Cochran suggested reaching out to the property owner to see if they could help ease the congestion being seen. Mrs. Boyer commented that she reached out to representatives at McDonald’s during their recent remodel and they said they were planning to have double order screens to relieve some of the traffic congestion. Now that the drive-thru is operational, she said she will reach out again to see if there can be something else implemented before the Township decides to explore limiting right turns during peak times. Commissioner Cochran said the couple of times he has been through they haven’t been using both windows. Mrs. Boyer will report back on her contact with the owner.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Chief Adams said the Police Department is still fully operational and so far all officers and their families are healthy and still paying attention to Governor Wolf’s orders and Department of Health guidance. He said since he reassigned the traffic safety officers to patrol he is surprised at how many traffic safety issues are now coming to light. He said they are keeping track of them and not ignoring them, but said the traffic safety officers are just not as available at this time due to COVID. Commissioner Cochran asked if there have been any observations by the Police Department regarding the parks during the pandemic. He said Lower Allen Township opened theirs up in advance of going green and our residents are complaining that we haven’t. He said he drove through some of our parks earlier in the day and noticed that the tape was torn down. Chief Adams said graffiti was sprayed on one building in Winding Hill Park but overall the number of COVID-19 calls have dropped in recent weeks and the Police Department has not seen any major problems in the parks. President Martin requested that Parks staff do daily checkups of the parks to make sure tape, signage, and other things aren’t missing.

Regarding the Yellow Breeches and related activities, Chief Adams said Memorial Day weekend an officer was assigned Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10 to 6. He said it was busy but there was nothing outrageous. There were lots of parking issues, but he said just the fact that there is someone dedicated there for the third year has served as a deterrent. Commissioner Anderson agreed that things looked good and it’s not as crowded as before.
Chief Shumberger said the pad in front of the fire station was completed last week and is at 100% now and hopefully will stay in good shape. He said their new utility truck is due in in 2 weeks, then they will send the traffic unit out. He said it will take 2 weeks to complete and should be in service by the end of month. He noted that they are replacing the utility truck with a new one and replacing the bed on the old one and making it their traffic unit to replace their 2001 model.

President Martin asked for an update on the flashing warning light at the intersection of English Drive and Gettysburg Pike, noting that the engineer was going to do some research to see if the different type that is proposed will in fact work. Chief Shumberger said TPD installed a similar type of audio system that would operate off the 911 alarm and would activate the light for 10 minutes, and Mr. Fazekas said they are in the process of moving forward with that with Moyer Communications to install the equipment on the signal. President Martin said he is disappointed that the decision was already made because at last month’s meeting it was determined that Mr. Fazekas would get back with an update due to questions about how long the signal would be activated and whether people would take it seriously. He said activation for 10 minutes would be a disservice to motorists. Mr. Fazekas said nothing has been signed yet and the next step would be to execute the proposal from Moyer. He said the timing can be changed, noting that he doesn’t know how long it takes the Fire Department to respond. Chief Shumberger said firefighters can’t come from home and get in an engine and gear up and be on the road in any less than 10 minutes. President Martin questioned the value of the flashing light being activated for 9 minutes before they get there. He said it seems like we’ve been working on this for multiple years and he wants a guarantee that it will work well and be satisfactory to the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Fazekas noted that Chief Adams isn’t interested in using the signal. He said he tried to set up a meeting with Chief Shumberger and TPD, and after talking to TPD he learned that this is similar to the system in use at W. Hanover Township that appears to be working fine. He said he’s not sure what else we can do, noting that the choices are either this type of activation based on 911 or they would have to go with other sirens. He said this is the only system that will eliminate the need to manually activate a siren. Chief Shumberger asked if there is a possibility of installing a button in the station to activate before they leave, and discussion on this option ensued. Mr. Fazekas said the issue is that they are too close to the flashing light to try to activate it like they can on the Carlisle Pike, for example. Whether they can activate it from their own vehicle is something he said he has to look into further. President Martin asked Mr. Fazekas to pause about signing anything until there is more off-line discussion. He said he is concerned about a light that flashes a long while without an emergency vehicle coming through. Options will continue to be explored.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

ZONING HEARING BOARD (ZHB) CASES FOR JUNE 11

1177 Fleming Drive

The property owner at 1177 Fleming Drive seeks to construct a fence in the drainage easement. Commissioner Cochran noted that the applicant indicated that he cannot move the swing set closer to the pool and still keep it and the fence out of the 25-foot drainage easement. He asked why the swing set cannot be moved, noting that he doesn’t see what that has to do with the issue. Mrs. Boyer said the applicant explained that the swing set is just outside of the easement and if realigned would be too close to the fencing being proposed, which could cause a safety issue for their child who has
vision impairments. Commissioner Cochran questioned whether there are underground facilities under the easement or just open space with sheet flow. Vice President Castranio said there is no pipe there, and in his opinion it’s not a needed easement, but it is on the plan. He said he walked the area and didn’t see a need for a drainage easement in that area.

150 Allen Distribution Drive

The property owner at 150 Allen Distribution Drive proposes a signage area greater than allowed by zoning. President Martin stated that he is sympathetic to this issue as Allen Distribution does sit back far from South Market Street and the sign would be mainly seen by motorists on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He said he sees no issues with the request. Commissioner Cochran said he didn’t understand the applicant’s interpretation of Section 245-18(C) of the ordinance, and Mrs. Boyer explained that they are interpreting it incorrectly. She said staff will bring it up at the hearing. The Board took no position.

HARB CASES FOR JUNE 16

There are no cases scheduled.

CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR 346 GETTYSBURG PIKE TO INSTALL A FENCE

Ms. Lona Cooper of 346 Gettysburg Pike has made an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct 4-foot-high, black, aluminum fencing that will surround a proposed swimming pool on the property. Portions of the fence can be seen from the public right-of-way. The property is located within the Shepherdstown Municipal Historic District and within the Medium-Density Residential (R-2) Zoning District. The applicant has noted that the existing L-shaped decorative fence near the carriage house along the rear of the property will not be disturbed. The new fence will also not interfere with the historic stone wall that is attached to the house. Decorative features around the pool were designed to complement this stone wall.

Copies of the permit application request were forwarded to all the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) members for their review and recommendation. The HARB members reviewed the application at their May 19, 2020 meeting and unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the applicant’s request. On May 21, 2020, Township staff submitted written communication of HARB’s decision to the applicant. The applicant was also notified of tonight’s Board of Commissioner’s meeting, at which time the Board will review the applicant’s request.

Section 10 of Chapter 155 of the Township Code states the Board shall consider applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The Board shall consider factors regarding the application as set forth in Section 155-9.C of the Township Code and the recommendation from HARB. If the Board approves the application, it shall issue a Certificate of Appropriateness authorizing the Building/Zoning Officer to issue a permit for the work covered, as stated in Section 155-10.D of the Township Code. If the Board disapproves the request, it shall do so in writing and copies shall be given to the person(s) applying for the permit and to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission within five days after the decision is made. The disapproval shall indicate what changes in the plans and specifications would meet the conditions for protecting the distinctive historical character of the district, as stated in Section 155-10.E of the Township Code.
Ms. Cooper participated in the meeting by Zoom. Commissioner Anderson made a MOTION to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the property owner of 346 Gettysburg Pike for the installation of a four-foot high, black, aluminum fence that will surround a proposed swimming pool on the property. Construction of the fence shall be in accordance with applicable building codes and ordinances, and in accordance with the building design and specifications as submitted and reviewed by the Historical Architecture Review Board. SECONDED by Commissioner Cochran. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Boyer noted that there is a Planning Commission meeting this month and she is prepared to hold it by Zoom, but it remains to be seen at this point.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO REDUCE FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR 1225 S. MARKET STREET (ALLEN DISTRIBUTION), UAT FILE #16-12-01A

Staff has received a letter from Evans Engineering, on behalf of owner Allen Distribution, requesting a reduction in the financial security posted for the above-referenced plan. The site was inspected and it was found that the developer has installed the improvements in accordance with the approved plans and the Township specifications, and all the improvements are functioning as designed. Therefore, the Board of Commissioners is in a position to authorize release of the installation financial security posted with the Township.

The Township is still holding financial security in the amount of $620,055.35 to guarantee installation of the improvements in this development.

Commissioner Cochran said it appears that they requested it once before but didn’t get an answer. Mrs. Boyer said they did request a reduction and we gave them one, from around $4 million down to the figure above. But she said there was some confusion because we didn’t receive the reduction from the bank so we still had the original amount pending. They then notified us that the improvements were complete and we found that it was constructed in accordance with the plan and that the remaining amount could be released.

Commissioner Cochran made a MOTION to authorize the proper Township officials to release the remaining financial security to the developer for the 1225 South Market Street Plan, UAT File #16-12-01A. The developer will dedicate no part of the improvements to the Township; therefore, a maintenance bond is not required for these improvements. SECONDED by Vice President Castranio. The motion carried unanimously.

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

CONSIDERATION/AUTHORIZATION TO REDUCE SANITARY SEWER INSTALLATION FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR ARBORVIEW DEVELOPMENT

Currently Upper Allen Township is holding Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. 819, dated October 7, 2019, from Mid Penn Bank in the amount of $117,725.00, as sanitary sewer installation financial security for sanitary sewer improvements in the above referenced development project. This amount is equal to 110% of the estimated construction cost of $107,022.10. Staff received a letter from
Donald Farinelli of 1849 Development LLC requesting the reduction of the sanitary sewer installation financial security for Arborview to an amount equal to the required maintenance financial security.

C. S. Davidson and Township staff have inspected the completed sanitary sewer improvements and find them to be installed in accordance with the approved plans and Township specifications. Therefore, the Board of Commissioners is in a position to authorize a reduction of the sanitary sewer installation financial security posted with the Township to an amount equal to $16,053.32 which is 15% of the installation cost, to be held for a period of 3½ years as additional financial security due to the use of native backfill material in streets, in accordance with the Standard Construction and Material Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Extensions and the provisions of the Township Code.

Following expiration of the additional 3½ years of financial security, the developer shall furnish the Township with as-built drawings of the completed sanitary sewer improvements and record the Deed of Dedication and the Easement Agreement at the Cumberland County Office of the Recorder of Deeds, following Township review and approval. The Township shall then release the installation financial security, after the developer posts with the Township the required maintenance (guarantee) financial security necessary to insure the integrity and function of the facilities installed in the dedicated easement and public rights-of-way for a period of 18 months. The maintenance financial security shall be in an amount equal to $16,053.32, or 15% of the cost of the completed sanitary sewer improvements, as stated in the Sewer Extension Agreement dated October 7, 2019.

Commissioner Walter made a MOTION to approve a reduction in the sanitary sewer installation financial security for Arborview from $117,725.00 to $16,053.32, after the developer posts with the Township new sanitary sewer installation financial security in the amount of $16,053.32 by way of amendment to the current LOC or in a satisfactory form as provided for in the Standard Construction and Material Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Extensions. SECONDED by Commissioner Cochran. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**AUTHORIZATION TO DECLARE ITEMS AS EXCESS FOR SALE AT COG AUCTION**

The items listed below are recommended for disposal at this year’s COG Auction scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020:

- Mens blue “Murray” 18-speed mountain bike – good condition
- Ladies pink/black “Next” 18-speed mountain bike – good condition
- Boys black/blue 1-speed “Razor” bike – good condition
- Car divider panel
- Plastic rear seat
- Rooftop light bar
- Storage box for a vehicle
- Miscellaneous hardware parts for vehicles

Commissioner Cochran made a MOTION approve disposal of the surplus item at the 2020 COG Auction, SECONDED by Vice President Castranio. The motion carried unanimously.
President Martin noted that the Township has an agreement with Mechanicsburg Borough providing for intermunicipal cooperation in the operation of a public swimming pool facility and in the funding of capital improvements, operating expenses, and maintenance costs. Given that Mechanicsburg has decided to close the pool this year (while Hampden has announced they will be open) and given that our $50,000 annual payment was to guarantee access to the pool for Upper Allen Township residents at Mechanicsburg Borough resident rates, Commissioner Cochran had proposed suspending our payment for this year. President Martin indicated that he would consider continuing to make the payments as scheduled through 2024 but had asked Mr. Fazekas to try to negotiate a preferred rate through 2025. Mr. Fazekas reported that he did contact the Borough Manager, and it was discussed at their Borough Council meeting on June 2. He confirmed that an extra year has been added to the contract since the pool is closed for the 2020 season. Commissioner Cochran said we are entitled to financial reporting from them, noting that he wants to know how many Township residents are registered at the pool each year and the financial condition of the pool. President Martin suggested going back the last 2 years or so, and Commissioner Cochran said he would like to see the data for the last 5 years. Commissioner Anderson agreed that it’s a good idea and said she likes getting an extra year since it won’t be used this year. Mr. Fazekas said he spoke to the Solicitor and he suggested we get an addendum to the agreement so we have it in writing. He said the Borough did also ask if the Board of Commissioners would be interested in continuing the agreement again but he told them it may be premature at this point since there are still 5 years left on the current agreement. He said he will request the residential and financial information going back 5 years. He said the agreement technically expires at the end of 2025 but the discount will continue through 2026 without additional payment for that year.

DISCUSSION OF ELECTION DAY CHANGES

President Martin asked if there were any issues with combining two precincts in the Public Works Garage on Election Day. Mr. Fazekas reported that there were no issues, and the Public Works employees did an excellent job cleaning and organizing the garage to accommodate the voters. He said he and Public Works Director Corey Stazewski met with the lead people of both precincts and they had no issues. He said the Bureau of Elections was ok with it as long as it had the same physical address as what was advertised. He said Chief Adams didn’t have his officers park in their usual spots so that provided additional parking, and the Public Works vehicles were also moved to provide parking. Commissioner Anderson said it seemed like it was working smoothly. She said Precinct 7 was not voting as heavily but probably because that is comprised mostly of Messiah Village residents.

REINSTATING IN PERSON PUBLIC MEETING DISCUSSION

President Martin questioned how long to conduct meetings by Zoom versus going face to face. He said he doesn’t know what the recommendation is or what we should do at this point. Mr. Fazekas said the way we operate now is working well. He said it is his preference to keep the building closed until the state moves to green status. Commissioner Cochran said he isn’t as concerned about opening the building as he is about the public meetings. He said there is a possibility that on June 5 they will announce that we go green on the 12th, and when that happens he thinks we should have the meetings open rather than by Zoom. He said even under green we can keep the building restricted and if it’s working well, keep the doors locked. President Martin said he tends to support that and thinks we should have public meetings as soon as feasible but he also understands Mr. Fazekas’
input. Mr. Fazekas said even if we limit public access to meetings, we would still limit the number of people in the building wandering around. He noted that other groups using the building oftentimes have kids running around and in and out of areas, and we would also have to restrict public access to the office areas beyond the double doors until plexiglass is installed. He noted that the plexiglass is on back order right now. Commissioner Cochran questioned whether the door is kept open for people to come in to visit tax collector now. Mr. Fazekas indicated that it is not, but there is a big box for drop off and envelopes for return receipts. He said the tax collector is not accepting walk-ins at this time that he is aware of. Commissioner Walter said he thinks we should wait until green status for public access to meetings.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION ON MANAGEMENT OF PARKS DURING PANDEMIC

President Martin asked for an update on how the parks are being used during the pandemic and also an update on how baseball camps are being conducted. Mr. Fraser said Mr. Steffan of the Baseball Association said baseball camps related to 7th and 8th grade are operating. They are using separate balls and other equipment and seem to be following CDC and DOH guidelines. He said the parks are being utilized in more family units, which was to be expected, especially since the start of warmer weather. The basketball and tennis courts are being used.

Commissioner Cochran asked if Township staff has done research on how to open the parks completely, anticipating the County moving into the green phase under the Governor’s Reopening Phasing Plan. Mr. Fraser explained that the Governor’s office has stated that CDC guidelines should be followed and high traffic areas, specifically bathrooms, should be cleaned and/or disinfected regularly, which he interprets as daily. He said there is not a lot of clear guidance. He said the best way to go forward is to clean them but also put up signage about how often and when we will clean them. Regarding the playgrounds, a hot water pressure washing rig will be used and we will install signage related to that too. He said CDC guidelines do seem to note that people should keep cleaning surfaces, but outdoor surfaces exposed to sun are at less risk and don’t require disinfecting. He said he doesn’t think it’s feasible to clean more than once a week. He said Winding Hill needs it at least once a week because of usage. He said the hot water rig will allow two employees to use pressure guns at a time. It has a 100-gallon tank that is completely mobile so they can go to all the little parks too, which was difficult in the past. He said the plan is to clean them all before they open and once we go green we will clean them once a week and place signage to that effect. He said we will also observe the situation, and if many people are there or they are busy all day, it may require additional cleaning. He said he thinks Winding Hill North will require cleaning more than once a week, but noted that at some point we will have employee and equipment limitations.

DISCUSSION ON YELLOW BREECHES CREEK ACCESS

Mr. Fraser noted that typically Messiah College has an abundance of people gathering for creek access during the summertime. He said he contacted Kathy Shaffer at the College about allowing creek access on the campus during COVID-19. Mrs. Shaffer said they will be closed at least all of June and she doesn’t expect the campus to be open to the public and it is probably best to not count on them for creek access. It has also put the College in a position to discuss the creek access a little more, noting that there were issues in the past from a public safety and crowd control perspective, so they will have discussions on whether to allow it at all. President Martin noted that without access at
the College, access would then be limited to Simpson and McCormick Parks, and Commissioner Anderson said she has also noticed people parking below Rosegarden for access. As for Simpson Park, it was noted that people park on both the Upper Allen and Monaghan Township sides of the creek. Commissioner Cochran said we put boulders along the road in that area and people are still squeezing in between them. Mr. Fazekas said the resident on the Monaghan Township side of the creek reached out to us because of undesirable activity going on there. Commissioner Anderson said there is also an issue by Klinepeter’s house. President Martin asked for suggestions. Commissioner Anderson said the appearance of the Police will help and they’ve done a good job with it. She asked if there is anything we can consider at the new property the Township just purchased along McCormick Road, but Mr. Fazekas said it will take too much work to get that site ready for any kind of creek access at this point. He said it’s heavily overgrown and he doesn’t know if it’s wetlands or accessible at this point, noting that we haven’t explored it yet. He said downed trees need removed, plus there’s no parking down there which would make it difficult to publicize it as an access point. He continued that where we put the boulders in we are going to impose a no-parking restriction and will add that to the ordinance along with other changes we are making, then the Police Department could issue citations for parking there. President Martin acknowledged that the area along Route 114 is a safety issue but questioned the alternatives for additional parking at Simpson Park. Mr. Fazekas said we can’t really expand it much more because it is in a low area already and flooding will wash away any additional improvements we would install there. He said his only suggestion is that people have to find additional parking somewhere else once that fills up. Chief Adams agreed that even with available area to create more parking, we will never have enough because it will continue to grow, and part of what helps to keep it under control is the limited parking. He said adding more could result in unintended consequences. Commissioner Anderson said in meeting with concerned residents there was talk about seeing if the Church of God in Bowmansdale would allow parking of vehicles after they unload because it’s not that far of a walk to the park from there. But she said she isn’t sure if that is a workable solution due to Sunday services, and Chief Adams pointed out that they also have Saturday functions. President Martin questioned whether the intermunicipal Yellow Breeches group is meeting this year, and Commissioner Anderson said she hasn’t heard anything since COVID. He said it might be worth reaching out to Lower Allen Township to see what they are experiencing. He said it’s an issue that is not easily resolved and suggested that Park & Rec and Public Safety Committees continue to monitor the issue. Commissioner Anderson urged Board members to go see the creek activity on a hot day.

DISCUSSION ON 2020 SUMMER PARKS AND PLAYGROUND PROGRAM DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Mr. Fraser noted that due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Township has been informed that the Summer Parks and Playground Program, which is run by the Mechanicsburg Area Recreation Department, will require additional funds and see significant changes in order to comply with CDC Guidance and PA Department of Health (DOH) requirements. Based on current information, it is estimated that the program will cost an additional $14,236 (total $19,909) and will only be able to register 30 children. In a normal year, the program would cost the Township about $5,675 and be able to register 150-180 children who are permitted to come and go.

Some of the challenges for the program this year, which have caused these changes include:

- Group of 10-Cohort
  o Campers should be in the same group of 10 each day with the same staff members. This is their Cohort.
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Cohorts should not mix.
- Children should maintain 6 feet of social distance within their Cohort.
- Children should not share equipment or supplies.

- Masks and PPE
  - Must be worn by staff.
  - Recommended that children use “when feasible” (CDC and DOH differ on this).

- Detailed Health and Safety Plan
  - Staggered drop off and pick up times.
  - Designated place for sick campers.

While camp and summer program requirements may change in the future, a decision on whether to move forward is required now to allow time for hiring of staff, training, registering participants and the development of procedures. Currently, many local municipalities—for example, Mechanicsburg Borough, and Silver Spring, Hampden, Springettsbury and Susquehanna Townships—have canceled their summer programs while a few others, such as Carlisle and Camp Hill Boroughs, have postponed a final decision.

Mr. Fraser said he’s not sure it makes a lot of sense to run the program from a value standpoint. President Martin pointed out that for 30 participants, the cost is $663 per child when heretofore it was $35 per child. He said that is quite an increase and wondered whether they discussed passing costs on to residents. Mr. Fraser said that would be up to the Township, noting that the summer camps are run under our guidelines to a certain extent. He said we can ask for a pass-long cost. He said the program is not the same if they change it up this way. Residents are used to a child coming in to do something and then leaving—it hasn’t been an all-day camp. He said to hold it only for 30 kids as an all-day camp event may not have much interest among the residents. He noted that the school doesn’t want to do it but are just giving us warning that there would be changes. Commissioner Cochran noted that it has not been discussed at Park & Rec Board meetings, but he said he doesn’t see parents wanting to make that financial commitment for a camp. Commissioner Walter suggested not having it, and Vice President Castranio and Commissioner Anderson agreed.

Commissioner Cochran made a MOTION to not offer a 2020 program due to COVID-19, SECONDED by Vice President Castranio. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON JOINT RECREATION AGREEMENT

President Martin asked if there is any update on the Joint Recreation Agreement. Mr. Fraser said there have been meetings with the School District, Upper Allen Township and Mechanicsburg Borough, but Shiremanstown didn’t attend. He said the parties worked out issues regarding reporting, number of meetings, level of policy decision groups would have, and level of veto power the School District would have. He said the School District is finalizing it and he hopes to have something to send out to the Board before the end of the week.

MISCELLANEOUS

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

There was no report.

CAPITAL REGION COG UPDATE
There was no report.

**MUNICIPAL ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE**

There was no report.

**PA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS (PSATC) UPDATE**

There was no report.

**SOLICITOR UPDATE**

There was no report.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Deborah Geotz, of 1117 McCormick Road, expressed concerns related to property recently purchased by the Township at 1215 McCormick Road, and requested that the comments below be included with the Minutes of the meeting.

“We have lived next to the horse farm for 37 years. During this time, we raised our three children to respect and enjoy nature. We enjoy hiking in the woods, birdwatching, organic vegetable gardening, and beekeeping. We love the beauty and peacefulness of this area. We have always been pro-active in our efforts to preserve this area and the Yellow Breeches Creek. I have led and joined numerous cleanup crews on the land and in the water to maintain the beautiful natural wonders of the Yellow Breeches and the adjacent riparian buffer areas. I have many photos to prove the massive amounts of trash that we have removed from the creek and surrounding areas. Most of this trash was (and is) the result of people on the creek. They are misusing and abusing this Pennsylvania Scenic River by ‘loving it to death’.

And the sad thing is that they do not even really enjoy the creek and the natural wonders. In an effort to cool off, and with no other place available, they come to the creek. With absolutely no regard or respect for wildlife, they float down, hooting and hollering, drinking alcohol, yelling curse words, urinating on private property—you name it and it is happening along the creek.

I need to mention the traffic jams and unsafe conditions in the township parks and along the township roads. We had a small child run in front of our truck—thank goodness we were moving slowly, paying attention and were able to slam on the brakes in time to stop. Cars and trucks fly down McCormick Road at unsafe speeds. Once again, I will ask for a reduction in speed from 25 mph to 15 mph with speed humps to calm traffic.

For decades, we and many others in the township walked and bicycled along McCormick Road. It is our only neighborhood roadway. Because we do not want to put our life in jeopardy, we can no longer go for a walk. This is not right. We should be able to walk without the fear of being run over by tubing groups. We need to reduce the congestion and traffic.

Unfortunately, we have recently learned that Upper Allen Township has purchased the farm next to us and you might be in the process of considering an additional access area to the creek. Not sure
where or how this could be possible. In between two homes? Across the road and walking through the wetlands to the creek? Certainly not really acceptable from any perspective. This area, as well as many areas along the Yellow Breeches, are known for their productive wetlands. The wetlands hold rain water, filter the storm water, and then dry out—creating the perfect habitat and vernal pools for many species.

Many areas along the Yellow Breeches provide a seasonal home for Wood Ducks and many sensitive migratory song birds, as well as a being a year-round important birding area. These species are sensitive to noise and commotion and would probably be scared away.

At previous meetings, I have expressed to the commissioners that it is not your responsibility to provide additional access to the creek in our township. Upper Allen Township is one of many townships and boroughs that border the Yellow Breeches.

The Yellow Breeches flows through and borders Cumberland County and York County—flows through the municipalities of Camp Hill, Lemoyne, Mechanicsburg, Mt. Holly Springs, New Cumberland, and Shiremanstown Boroughs; and the townships of Cooke, Dickinson, Hampden, Lower Allen, Monroe, Penn, Southampton, South Middletown, and Upper Allen Township.

To reduce the masses coming to McCormick Road, the other townships along the Yellow Breeches need to do their part to provide access for their citizens. Specifically, just to name a few examples of other areas that could be added to the water trail and opened up for creek access:

- the existing park associated with Green Lane Farms in Fairview Township has an unused lengthy open space along the creek where they could build a boat ramp to create an access area.
- the Pa Fish & Boat Commission owns property with a very accessible boat ramp that no one uses because it currently requires a boat permit!
- in Monroe Township possibly create a public/private agreement with the owners of the abandoned amusement park at Williams Grove Speedway. That space would make a perfect access area and would probably make money for the owners. They run a speedway and the noise factor would probably not be an issue.
- possibly have a public/private agreement with Ashcombes/TJ Rockwells to use their existing parking and creek frontage. TJ Rockwells might enjoy the extra business that this would create for them.

There are many possibilities that should be explored. What I am saying is that this should not be a McCormick Road problem. This should not be an Upper Allen Township problem. Why are we as a township creating new problems for our law enforcement and residents? There are lots of places that could easily become access points.

McCormick Road in Upper Allen Township does not have to be and should not be abused by the masses coming from neighboring areas and adjacent states. It should be appreciated as the birth place for Upper Allen Township and respected as such.

Speaking for herself, the residents along McCormick Road feel abused, but she has heard the same from others. Township officials are not hearing our voices. You have yet to get a handle on the linear park along McCormick Road—it was never intended for this many people and even with your
increased efforts (thank you Jim Adams and the UAT police force), it is clearly unmanageable with too many people. Now you are considering spreading this chaos into another area of McCormick Road. You will be destroying what makes it so beautiful and so unique. This does not make sense.

I touched on the traffic and safety concerns earlier, but need to add that safety and liability are definitely reasons the township does not need another access point. Does everyone know about the boy who was kayaking with his family and almost drowned on the YB last week? He was life-flighted to Hershey Medical Center. Several people almost drowned last year. The creek is a natural body of water with unforeseen natural dangers. And if that is not dangerous enough, some groups consume alcohol while on the creek. We have all SEEN and HEARD how disrespectful, rowdy and abusive they become on the water. I do not think that the township should use tax dollars to invite and endorse that behavior.

There is really no way that the township police, also at taxpayer expense, can control the behavior. It is just a matter of time before someone gets killed by the log jams and rushing water.

If townships want to offer creek access points that extend invitations to the public, then the townships need to be held responsible for, and liable for, the health and safety of those accepting your invitation to get in the creek.

You would need to spend time, UAT taxpayer money, and effort requiring and enforcing rules to make it safe—like:

- Requiring Personal Flotation Devices
- Making it illegal to possess and consume alcohol on the park land or in the water.
- Establishing a Risk Assessment based on safety concerns using factual criteria to determine when the water is not safe and when to close creek access points:
  1. Weather - cold water temperature; severe weather - forecasting thunderstorms
  2. Water level - USGS gauge - safety levels
  3. Turbidity - Clarity of the water - too much sediment - not safe if you cannot see through the water
  4. Toxins in the water - Someone needs to test for contaminants like e-coli levels/PCBs/ Pesticides/Herbicides/Insecticides to determine if it is safe to get creek water in your ears, etc.
  5. Safety of waterway passage - check for sweepers and strainers - also downed trees blocking the entire creek creating dangerous or impassable conditions.

I would like to add that there are many leaning trees along the edges of the creek that are providing shade and naturally cooling water for the little critters. These trees are needed to sustain the ecological balance of the water. So please do not cut down the trees or nail signs all over the trees. McCormick Road in Upper Allen Township does not have to be trashed, covered in commercial metal signs, or abused. The residents of McCormick Road need to be heard. The township should be helping us reverse the trend of speeding traffic and excessive noise along McCormick Road. I am asking you to help us bring back and preserve the overall character of our area.

McCormick Road should be saved as a historical area—conducive for people enjoying the quiet and peaceful outdoors. Walking, birdwatching, bicycling, horseback riding, taking scenic photos, and going on Sunday drives along the creek are all activities that could be enjoyed.
I have lived in this area for a long time and have many ideas that would actually enhance the outstanding beauty and overall character of our neighborhood. My contact information is listed below. I look forward to hearing from you.”

Ms. Goetz said she agreed with Commissioner Anderson and urged Board members to drive down McCormick Road on a sunny day and see what’s going on. President Martin thanked her for her comments. With respect to the speed limit, he said the Chief has heard and we can look into it although he doesn’t know the possibilities there. With respect to the farm, he said we have said in newsletters and on the website that we are doing nothing at the moment. He said the Board realizes that it is a tremendous asset and should be enjoyed by more Township residents, whatever that turns into. But he said we are planning to take a deliberate master planning process with input from the Park &Recreation Board, the Board of Commissioners, and citizens, and he assured her we will have public forums as we move forward with finding uses for it. He said it will not be done in isolation but will be transparent. He said it will probably not end with something that is the prime objective of every resident, but hopefully with discussions it will be acceptable and beneficial to a majority of residents and a compilation of residents. He acknowledged that he knows she has participated in planning issues before. Commissioner Anderson reiterated that with Messiah College not opening their access point it will mean more on McCormick Road, and we want to try to address that.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

There were no additional comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Martin recessed the regular meeting at 8:10 for an Executive Session on a personnel issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Martin reconvened and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.