

MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
June 18, 2012
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Don Haines, Chairman
Jay Lewis, Vice Chairman
Tiffani Lynn, Secretary
Mary Virginia Abendschein
Justin Evans
Jeff Helm
Terry Sears

MAYOR/COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary Wickenheiser, Council Vice-President

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Norman B. Meiskey, III, Borough Manager, Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Zoning Officer
George Weis, Code Enforcement Officer
Deb LaClair, Clerk

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Barnes – James R. Holley and Assoc. – Colonial Metals Project
Theo Robinson, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Patrick McGinness
Frank Doutrich
Travis Smith

CALL TO ORDER:

Don Haines, Chairman, called this regular meeting of the Columbia Borough Planning Commission to order on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

There was a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES:

Don Haines stated the May 21, 2012 minutes would be approved as submitted.

ACTION ITEMS:

There were no action items.

ENGINEER'S REVIEW(S):

There were no engineer reviews.

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

451 North Second Street – Colonial Metals – Jim Barnes, James R. Holley & Associates, presented plans for the parking lot expansion project for Colonial Metals. Mary Virginia asked for clarification of the existing striped area and the area to be expanded. Jim pointed out the areas to the Planning Commission. Jay Lewis asked about the need for the parking expansion. Jim stated he didn't know why the parking was being expanded. Jeff Helm asked if the evergreen trees would be relocated. Jim stated no. Don Haines asked if there would be additional signs or lighting installed. Jim stated no. Mary Virginia asked if there would be additional plantings. Justin Evans asked about the replacement of some of the trees. Don asked for clarification of why the parking was being expanded. Mary Virginia asked if this parking expansion could be used for other community events. Norm Meiskey stated that the parking areas are used for internal company events. Jim Barnes stated he would clarify the issues raised by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

1600 Lancaster Avenue – Eric White – Jeff Helm stated Eric contacted Jim Barnes regarding the possible resurrection of this project from 2008. There was discussion on what was previously submitted for the project. Norm added the property owner would have to resubmit a plan because the original plan was not recorded.

400 Avenue X – Columbia & Reading Railway Company – Jeff Helm briefly explained the project which would include an engine repair facility and additional rail tracks. Norm added a final plan has not been submitted but that this project would come before the Columbia Borough Planning Commission.

Norm Meiskey updated the Commission on the Route 441 relocation project, the downtown sidewalk/tree project, the sewer treatment/highway projects, the River Park ground services building and Plane Street phase II project. Norm explained the requirement for reasonable communication of the public hearing on July 9, 2012 for the Airport Ordinance. There was discussion on how this information would be distributed.

Jeff Helm added there would be a work session for the revision of the Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinance.

ZONING HEARING:

601 Franklin Street – Mark Fischer was requesting a variance/special exception to construct a garage on an existing concrete pad. Jeff Helm explained the zoning ordinance requires the door to be set back 20 feet from the sidewalk but the project would not meet the required set back. The Planning Commission decided not to make a recommendation on this project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Frank Doutrich talked about the impending Ironville Pike project and the installation of sidewalks.

Pat McGinness asked for clarification on how the information would be communicated to the public regarding the Airport Ordinance. Norm explained how this would be done by the Borough. Pat also asked about the height of the building proposed for the railway project. There was discussion on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tiffani Lynn motioned and Jeff Helm seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All favored this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Tiffani Lynn
Secretary



