

SWATARA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 8, 2015

The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on a proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the Swatara Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111.

Members of the Board present were: Commissioners Varner, Connolly, Spandler, Chiavetta, Troxell, Milakovic, Murphy, Moyer, and Boudier. Also present: Administrator Cornell, Assistant Administrator Zimmerman, Solicitor Wion, Zoning Officer Hardman, and Secretary Rubinic.

Troxell: This is the time, date, and place set for the Public Hearing to review and receive public comment on a proposed Amendment to the Swatara Township Code of Ordinances relating to zoning provisions dealing with signs, particularly the time provided for certain signs to change their message, provided that each message is visible for a minimum of six (6) seconds, with the exception of time and temperature signs which may change more frequently. In addition, revisions are made to off-premise signs concerning their permitted district, their location, the maximum total of sign area on each side of the signs, spacing, attachment to other off-premise signs and control of lighting and glare. Let the record show that Notice of this Hearing has been duly advertised as required by law. Also let the record reflect that copies of the proposed Ordinance were submitted to the Swatara Township Planning Commission and the Dauphin County Planning Commission, thirty (30) days prior to this hearing, also as required by law. The Swatara Township Planning Commission has considered the Ordinance amendment and returned it, with its review, to this Board for consideration. The Dauphin County Planning Commission has also made a report with its recommendations and comments. At this time I will call on Zoning Officer Janet Hardman to briefly explain and outline the proposed Ordinance.

Hardman: Good evening, Commissioners. We have been working on this for several months. The Planning Commission made the recommendation on June 2; Dauphin County Planning Commission on June 1. They had a couple concerns about setbacks and lighting which we discussed at the meeting and resolved. PennDOT has no setback requirement, and we're going to recommend 5 feet. The lighting is .3 foot candles which is an industry standard, which we don't have any problem with. One of the things the Planning Commission members had wanted was a condition for lighting that they sign that they would meet the lighting requirements, but we felt there was no need for that because we have regulations that we can enforce if they don't meet the lighting requirements.

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The sign is located on quarry property; it is a billboard sign. This amendment would only allow just that sign; it wouldn't allow a sign anywhere else in the M-L District. And we amended the Ordinance to allow it in the C-G with conditions, with distance requirements, setbacks, those types of things. This amendment will allow one billboard, and only one billboard.

Troxell: Is there anyone from the public who wishes to make a comment in relation to the Ordinance?

[There were no comments from the public present.]

Troxell: Are there any Commissioners who wish to make any comments in relation to the Ordinance?

I would like to ask--what should I expect to see with this type sign?

Hardman: It's going to be a standard sign--industry standard 672 SF--and will be on quarry property along I-83.

Troxell: And it will be a variable messaging sign? Something like we've all seen around like out by Lowe's and a whole stretch up along 78.

Hardman: Yes.

Troxell: I declare this Public Hearing closed and we will now reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 PM.



Dolores M. Rubinic, Township Secretary