

Upper Milford Township
Board of Supervisors
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
October 6th, 2022, 7pm
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; Daniel Mohr, Joyce Moore, John Zgura; Manager Edward Carter; Planning Coordinator Brian Miller, Solicitor Marc Fisher, Secretary/treasurer Jessi O'Donald

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

Upper Milford Board of Supervisors held an executive session on Monday October 3rd at 4:00 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Please join us for a moment of Silence for Judith Parker, she was a valued member of our Planning Commission since 2006.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Hival Und Dahl – Presentation

The Hival Und Dahl Preservation Society is a non-profit organization in Upper Milford Township. We own the Schubert-Graber Log Post Shop on Powder Valley Road. We are in the process of seeking grants to restore the building. Our state representative, Milou Mackenzie, recommended that we apply for an LSA grant. We are eligible to apply, but the application must be done through the township. We have been given time at your meeting on October 6 to discuss this process. Information about the log building and our organization follow: **HISTORY OF THE SCHUBERT-GRABER FARM:** Lehigh County, where the log shop is located, was first settled around 1730. Lehigh County is bordered along its northern boundary by the Blue Mountain, a ridge of the Appalachian Mountain range. The South Mountain ridge cuts through the southern townships of the county where the Schubert-Graber log shop is located. Beginning in the early 1730's, a major immigration of Alemanische (Germanic) peoples from central and southern Europe flowed into Pennsylvania. Many German and Swiss settlers made their way to the Lehigh Valley and established prosperous farms. The Schubert family's presence in the southeastern region of Pennsylvania began as part of a period of the major immigration from Europe to America that occurred in the first half of the 18th century. David Schubert and his wife, Maria Teichman, Schwenkfelder's, made their way from Silesia first to Holland and in 1734 on to Philadelphia where they settled in the Germantown area. To David and Maria was born Melchior Schubert in 1747. In 1791, Melchior moved his wife Maria Krauss and their eight children to the farm. Melchior Schubert's farm passed down through the sons of the Schubert family until Laura, the daughter of Reuben Schubert, married Frank Graber. It was Laura Schubert Graber and Frank Graber who took over the farm in 1924 when her father Reuben passed away.

Laura and Frank continued to farm until she died in 1940 and Frank died in 1946 at which time their son Elmer took over the farm. Elmer Graber died in 1985. Following Elmer's death, his wife Mary Long Graber continued living in the house but rented the farm ground to a neighboring farmer who continued to cultivate the fields but did not use the farm buildings. In 1992 Mary Graber sold the farm to John Fretz and Associates for a housing development of single-family homes to be called Hills of Powder Valley. Fretz demolished all the farm buildings except for the main farmhouse and the small log shop and its garage addition. The Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society was formed in 1992 by several people who were interested in saving the small log-shop building. As a result, the developer donated the plot of land (1.27 acres) upon which the log shop stood for the price of \$1. None of the original founders of the Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society were Schubert descendants.

THE LOG SHOP'S ORIGINS AND FUNCTIONS: There is no solid documentary proof of who built the little two-story log shop, or what its original purpose was. Census data and Melchior Schubert's will, which he signed 2 August 1831 only a few months prior to his death that December, listed his occupation as a cooper. There is a strong possibility that Melchior had the log-post shop building erected as a cooperage. On the stair casing wall that leads to the loft there was a large circle scribed using a pair of compass points. The metal points of the compass were lodged in the ends of wooden handles and the tool was used in making large circles for laying out wheels, barrel bottoms, lids, and many other items. It is possible the building served various purposes throughout its evolution. Family histories have stated that the building once served as a house, though physical evidence does not suggest that the building ever served as a long-term residence. As for example there is no evidence of a cooking hearth. When the Melchior Schubert family moved to the farm, they probably occupied the standing four room log house on the west side of the road, opposite the log shop. Melchior was a cooper, and the physical evidence supports the idea that Melchior had the log-post shop building erected shortly after he arrived on the property. A comparison of the physical evidence contained in the main farmhouse across the road and the log shop itself suggests that the shop served primarily as a warm weather workshop and not as a house. There is no evidence of a hearth or any source of heat except for the small stove pipe hole in the ceiling for a temporary wood stove used for a short time in the 19th century. There are no internal stairs connecting the first and second stories, no finished doors were ever hung in the doorways of the second floor to loft stairs, and the level of finish in and on the log walls is more appropriate for a tradesman's shop or use with agricultural purposes than a permanent residence. The log shop building also contains evidence of a pre-existing building on the same site. Portions of the existing first floor stone walls were actually built for an earlier building. The second-floor walls were built using the salvaged logs from the first period building. It is possible that the earlier building was used as an early residence, and that the later (existing) shop building was used occasionally as a home when extended family needed it. In a 1993 letter written by Kathryn Miller (great-great-granddaughter of Christopher Schubert, a son of Melchior) she states "Melchior Schubert built a log house down at the foot of this hill where my great-grandfather Timothy was born." Miller's handwritten history referred to the house location as "at the foot of the hill," which matches the location where the current log-post shop building stands on the east side of Powder Valley Road. Charles Paul Schubert (b. 1909) wrote "I am positive that my grandfather Timothy was born there." ("There" refers to the log building on the east side of Powder Valley Road where the log shop now stands.) So, whether or not the building was ever a full-time residence is a question.

The log shop is now stop #4 on the Lehigh County Log Cabin Trail. **HIVEL UND DAHL PRESERVATION SOCIETY:** The Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society was active for several years. They had historical programs about the Upper Milford area and plans to restore the log-post shop. Restoration work was done to the stone foundation of the building. The Society became inactive after several years and was reorganized in 2006. Our main goal is still restoration of the Schubert-Graber Log-Post Shop which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 2018.

We have programs and meetings quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and November. We usually meet at the Upper Milford Township Building. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are interested in local history, please consider joining us. For more information visit our website - www.hivelunddahl.org or our Facebook page.

Isabella Miller, Bob Hunsicker and Bill Wagner presented information and asked questions. There was discussion of the cost of the project and if prevailing wage would increase the costs. The association asked about Property Tax reduction as well as help with applying for a grant through Milou Mackenzie's Office for the restoration of the cabin. It was suggested that the Township's Solicitor would not be able to help with the tax question due to conflict of interest. They would have to hire a lawyer. It was suggested that they see if their contractor charges prevailing wages and to come up with a definite cost for the project. Then come back in to see if proceeding for this grant would meet their needs.

Kevin Kleinsmith: Kevin announced the awarding of a grant to Station #19 for the truck they need to replace. On Saturday during the Community Day Festivities Senator Brown, Rep Makenzie and others were present to award the grant in the amount of more than half the cost of the truck needing replacement. He thanked Township staff for help in getting in touch with Senator Brown's office.

Everyone expressed gratitude for the grant money to the Fire Company.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Approval of September 15th, 2022, regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Supervisor Moore made a motion to approve the September 15th, 2022, minutes as presented. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:

GENERAL FUND:

PLGIT XXXX7096 - Check No's. **21573 to 21629** in the amount of **\$182,001.32**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BANK TRANSFERS:

Transfers No.'s 2022-057 through 2022-069

MOTION: Supervisor Moore made a motion to pay the bills as read and acknowledge the bank transfers. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No Report

1.) ~~Resolution 2022-035 — Act 57~~

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Draft 2023 Budget

Manager Carter presented the draft budget to the Board. It includes the cost of the garage at the Municipal building, the Quarry Rd Bridge, and the purchase of a new loader to replace the Township's current aging loader.

2.) Resolution 2022-036 Stormwater O&M for 7002 Saint Peters Rd Out Building

MOTION: Supervisor Moore made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-036 for the operations & maintenance agreement for the stormwater plan for the outbuilding at 7002 Saint Peters Rd. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

DEP MODULES / SEWAGE PLANNING: - None

PLANNING COMMISSION – OLD BUSINESS: - None

PLANNING COMMISSION – NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBDIVISIONS – IMPROVEMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Macungie Borough Request for Special Fire Police
 - a. Letter from Macungie Borough Manager John Brown

Macungie Borough requests the use of East Macungie Road as a traffic detour during our Halloween Parade on October 22, 2022, from 6:00-9:30 PM and the use of Special Fire Police from Upper Milford Stations #19 and #28 if willing and able. There was a list of contacts for those wanting to help.

MOTION: Supervisor Moore made a motion to approve the use of East Macungie Rd and the allowance of Special Fire Police from #19 & #28 if willing and able, as requested for October 22, 2022, from 6:00 to 9:30 pm for the Macungie Halloween Parade, per John Brown's letter dated September 15th, 2022. Supervisor Zgura seconded the motion. Hearing no questions or comments, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 2.) Request for Beverage Vending Machine at Lenape Park
 - a. Letter from UMYA

Upper Milford Youth Association (UMYA) has officially approved the addition of a Pepsi machine to the Lenape Park Snack Stand exterior space. This action was passed by vote at our September Board of Directors meeting. This letter is being sent to request permission from Upper Milford Township to have a machine placed beginning Spring 2023. We believe this machine will be a benefit to our youth organization. It will allow players and the public to purchase water bottles,

Gatorade, and other Pepsi products during all open park hours. The Pepsi corporation will be responsible for machine maintenance and security. UMYA and Upper Milford Township will have the right to remove the machine at any time with official notice to Pepsi. UMYA will be offering Pepsi products within the Snack stand as well. Pepsi will be offering a discounted supply to UMYA for both the soda machine and the snack stand.

There was a brief discussion on location, liability, and possibility of placing a vending machine at Lenape Park. Phil Casey asked about the electric cost. Rachel Aponte was in attendance from UMYA and answered questions. She stated that Pepsi would be responsible for the machine's liability if broken or vandalized. She stated the hope was to place the machine on the side of the concession stand with the outlet, which would face the playground. Pepsi would be giving UMYA a discount on all products for the vending machine and to sell in the concession stand. Pepsi will not draw up the contract until the municipality give the tentative approval. Staff was directed to look into the location and determine if the site was sufficient for the location of a vending machine, then it would be discussed further.

OTHER ISSUES: - None

REPORTS:

Emergency Services Committee Report: No Report

Township Emergency Management Coordinator: N/A

Emergency Services Call Report: Report on Website

Fire Companies: Nor further report.

Emmaus Library: Lisa Marten: September was National Library Card month. The Notary Service has been well received and used. Notary services and free by appointment. Families with small children at 66 attendees for the event and the library received a Jump Start Grant for more materials for families with young children. Tonight (10/6) is Community Heroes night where families can meet the local Fire Fighters and EMS crews that serve our community. October 25th there will be a speaker to answer Medicare questions.

Recreation Commission:

Township Manager:

Bud Carter – Manager Carter investigated Phil Casey's concerns over the cost of the Quarry Road Bridge and if there would be a cost savings to creating a one lane bridge instead of a direct replacement. Manager Carter reported that Rettew determined that the cost to replace the bridge is around \$40,000. To downsize the bridge to one lane would save between \$5,000 and \$10,000, which would then have to be spent in closing the original opening for the bridge with guiderail and change of abutments.

Supervisors:

John D. Zgura – No Report

Joyce K. Moore – No Report

Daniel J. Mohr – Vera Cruz Halloween Parade is October 12 with a rain date of October 13th. Parade forms at 6:15 to 6:30 pm at Mystic Chain Park to move at 7:00 pm. Sadly, Jeffery Tapler has passed away, as he has done the announcing for the parade for many years and will be missed. The Allen St light is also being worked on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - The Upper Milford Board of Supervisors will hold an executive session to discuss Real Estate after the adjournment of this meeting. There will be no decision made.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Chairman Daniel J. Mohr

**October 20th, 2022
Date**

Secretary Jessi O'Donald