

A special meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Richboro Middle School, Upper Holland Road. The purpose of the special meeting was to hear a presentation by the Bucks County Planning Commission on a proposed trail that would turn the former Newtown-Fox Chase rail line into a multi-purpose recreation trail.

Members of the Board of Supervisors present were:

Larry Weinstein
Barry Moore
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Frank O'Donnell

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
Karen Lee Demerlis, Acting Township Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Weinstein stated Paul Gordon the County Planner is on his way and Lynn Bush, Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission had a meeting conflict and would not be attending tonight's public comment.

Chairman Weinstein stated Northampton Residents comments would be limited to five (5) minutes and Non-Residents limited to one (1) minute. Anyone who has not had a chance to speak at the September 17, 2016 meeting during the public comment period will be heard first tonight and if time allows speakers will get a second chance to speak. Chairman Weinstein also asked speakers to not be repetitive to make the meeting flow in a productive manner.

The format for public comment will be alternating one (1) pro, one (1) con for time limits as previously specified.

After all public comment has been taken; the Board will discuss and determine the next step. Another meeting may be scheduled depending on the outcome of tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the project, citing the following concerns: Quality of life, increase of crime, stranger danger, decreased property values, loss of privacy, and invasion on local wildlife. Various questions were asked, i.e.; projected number of trail users, annual maintenance and policing costs.

Opposed to the Project

- Chad Lonergan, Rotterdam Road East
- Malorie Gold, 57 Grant Drive
- Bob Mraz, 1218 Old Jordan Road
- Jennifer Gold, 57 Grant Drive
- Dave Patterson, 19 Amsterdam Avenue
- Joe Baldassare, 45 Grant Drive
- Ron Wall, 1181 Bristol Road
- Joe Reebock, Northampton Township
- Kelly Clark, 43 W. Patricia Road
- Don George, Watergate Drive
- Laura Wright, 1192 Old Jordan Road
- Noel Carter, 61 Windmill Drive
- Bill Lynch, 110 Rotterdam East
- David Reese, 64 Grant Drive
- Mike Wrights, 15 Jefferson Court
- Brian Braverman, 15 Jericho Road
- Dolores Mcerlain, 270 Chapel Drive
- David Cutler, 1243 Old Jordan Road
- Anatoliy Kotlarsky, 90 Nelson Drive
- Eric Lehman, Northampton Township

- Patricia Sexton, 63 Amsterdam Avenue
- Ralph Sarne, 50 Jericho Road
- Jeff Gold, 57 Grant Drive
- Joe Reebock, Northampton Township, spoke a second time.
- Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive

Supporting the Project

The following individuals spoke in support of the project, and cited the following reasons: enhanced property values, less crime, provides an alternative, pollution free transportation route, an additional resource for families and health conscious individuals to use and enjoy.

- Ira Spector, 3405 Stafford Place
- Joanne Klemptner, 283 Magnolia Drive
- Nancy Sauers, 104 Windmill Drive
- Keith Sevcik, 72 Bustleton Pike
- Rick Gray, 16 Furlong Court
- Bob Luco, 1387 Rosebud Road, Southampton **(Non-Resident)**
- Wendy Fesmire, 297 Ward Court
- Herb Heffner, 34 Woodstream Drive
- Francis Ericson, 18 Greenmeadow Circle
- Steve Tillery, 30 Rocking Horseway
- Tom Hibbs, Penntammany Greenway Coalition, Southampton, **(Non-Resident)**
- Tom Lyons, Newtown, PA (Non-Resident)
- Anna Shemyakina, 3204 Stockton Place
- Judy Krull, 39 Hope Road
- Dan Burke, 100 Austin Drive

- Megan Mole, Old Jordan Road
- Steve Sakay, 263 Burgundy Lane, Newtown **(Non-Resident)**
- Carl Fetzer, 283 North Second Street Pike
- Cliff Locasale, New Road
- William Deiss, 32 Bryan Drive
- Cliff Locasale, New Road, spoke a second time.

Chairman Weinstein concluded the public comment period at 10:00 pm. Chairman Weinstein stated the Board anticipated more give and take with the Bucks County Planning Commission and expected them to be available tonight to answer more questions. The next goal of the Board is to ask the Bucks County Planning Commission to attend another meeting so the Board may ask their questions. The Board then will discuss and make a recommendation on whether to proceed with the study or not. An announcement will be made when the next meeting is scheduled and will be posted on the website and social media accounts.

Chairman Weinstein asked residents to continue to send in their questions, concerns, and comments to the Board on this matter.

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen Silver, Secretary