

## North Wales Borough Planning Commission

### Meeting Minutes from April 03, 2024

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The North Wales Borough Planning Commission Meeting of April 03, 2024 was conducted in person at North Wales Borough Hall.

The meeting information was advertised in The Reporter on December 21, 2023, as part of the meeting schedule for 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Mark Tarlecki at 7:06 P.M. The following members were present: Jocelyn Tenney, Lillian Higgins and Star Little. Chair Greg D'Angelo was absent.

Tim Konetchy, Montgomery County Planning Commission Planner was also present at the meeting.

Member Tarlecki led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Public Comment:

Megan Foreman, 320 Evergreen Dr., Upper Gwynedd, spoke as a member of the North Wales Home and School Association about the North Wales Elementary "Playground initiative". The school has 460 children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

- Megan explained that the improvements will benefit not only the school children during the school day but all in North Wales who use the playground on evenings and weekends. The initiative will follow the values of safety, inclusion, and diversity.
- The Committee has been surveying the site, other playgrounds and what commercial vendors are offering. Phase one has been completed with business sponsors helping the school. There is now a GaGa Pit and a cart to bring out the equipment like balls, etc. to the playground for use.
- Phase 2 – The North Penn School District plans to assess all playgrounds with a report in the fall.
- Phase 2 for North Wales is a Sensory Garden and a brick area for those students who would prefer to sit and chat with friends some days. There is also the plan to have a solid surface near the GaGa Pit for those with mobility issues. A "Buy a Brick" campaign is planned for this phase.
- A total of \$50,000 is needed. Thus far, \$12,000 was raised with families and children setting up Lemonade Stands on their blocks. \$38,000 is needed and will be part of a 'Buy A Brick' campaign. The timelines are: July 1 – Fund raise; August 1 – Break ground; October 10 – Dedicate the area on World Inclusion Day.

#### North Wales Borough 2040 Implementation Audit

The Planning Commission continued its review of the Audit under 'Revitalization, Placemaking and Beautification.'

- The revitalization of Elm and Main St. is a possible starting point. Possibly Montgomery County Re-Development Corp. may be able to assist North Wales Borough to organize and apply for grants.
- Starr Little will also contact Justin Copenhaver a North Wales business owner who is in the process of trying to restart the Borough's Business Alliance and ask him to come to the Commission's next meeting. A BBA can help with the promotion and advertisement of the Borough.
- A streetscape plan will be reviewed in the future, looking for donated trees.
- In regard to vehicular circulation, it was suggested the Commission invite the North Wales

Chief of Police to a meeting to discuss. As a note: there is a shuttle stop at the North Wales Post Office for Merck employees who arrive for work by train.

- Pedestrians and Bikes – SALDO amendments will cover it.
- Sidewalks – at sale can require the installation of a sidewalk.

NOTE:

Following the meeting, Tim emailed the members a list of specific actions the Commission will begin to work on.

1. SALDO re-do
2. Park tree inventory
3. Street tree inventory
4. Street tree planting (Can donated trees be planted on-street?)
5. Historic district expansion and education/outreach
6. Park accessibility audits
7. Parks guide
8. Parks maintenance plans (annual)
9. Continue to support NWES shared-use open space/playground
10. Streetscaping audit
11. Streetscaping plan/design guidelines
12. Parking study, potential parking meter installation
13. Traffic study (cut-thru)
14. Transit study (bus stops)
15. Bicycle plan or Active Transportation Plan
16. Continue to implement the walkability study recommendations (ongoing)
17. Waste and recycling education; yard waste education and pickup/dropoff (could occur when/if a single hauler is established)
18. Stormwater management education
19. Continue to monitor Zoning Ordinance use and 'fit'
20. Other lower-priority or non-priority actions will also be noted (e.g., implementing parking permit fees)

Commission Minutes of March 06, 2024:

The minutes were approved 4-0-0. Lillian Higgins made the motion to approve and Starr Little seconded the motion.

Old Business:

The Armani Trust which had come to the Planning Commission in March, 2024, decided not to go at this time to the North Wales Zoning Board so that meeting has been cancelled. Since North Wales Borough Council had voted to send their solicitor to the Zoning Board to oppose their project on School St., the Armani Trust decided to present its case to the Council at its April 09, 2024 meeting.

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:46 P.M. Lillian Higgins made the motion to adjourn. Mark Tarlecki seconded the motion. All voted in approval 4-0-0.

May 1, 2024 is the next North Wales Planning Commission meeting.

Submitted,  
Jocelyn Tenney, Secretary