

**Birmingham Township Planning Commission (BTPC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting May 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the BTPC was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Scott Garrison, Eric Hawkins, MaryPat McCarthy, Brendan Murphy, David Shields

ABSENT:

Also present: Dave Schlott Jr, PE, Stephen Sauselein, PE

Mr. Shields made a motion to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. McCarthy and it passed unanimously.

**1305 Wilmington Pike/Penn Oaks Ent. – Office Building Sewage Facilities Planning Modules**

Mr. Schlott stated that this project would normally be eligible for a planning module exemption which would just be signed off by the township. However, they are not eligible for this exemption because the waste water treatment plant that this property will tie into is under a Corrective Action Plan due to organic overload. The plant meets its effluent requirements, but from a planning perspective it is considered higher than the plant was designed for. When the annual Chapter 94 report was completed and submitted in March – looking back 5 years and projecting forward 5 years the organic overload exceeded the permitted amount. Currently they are under a Corrective Action Plan monitoring the overloads to see where they are coming from or whether they should be considered normal operation for the plant. If that is determined to be the case, then a paper re-rate application will need to be completed to show that the treatment plant is meeting these higher organic or hydraulic loads. This re-rate application will need to be submitted to DEP for approval. Ultimately because the township could not show that there is not going to be any hydraulic overload in the next 5 years, the applicant must go through the Component 3 Planning Module – one of the steps of that Planning Module is Component 4 which goes to the local Planning Commission, the County Planning Commission, and the County Department of Health. This is the form that the Planning Commission is completing tonight.

Mr. Shields asked if the organic overload is at the current levels or the projected five year? Mr. Schlott stated it is at the current level. He believes that the plant is permitted to handle 310 lbs of organic load per day and it is exceeding that. When evaluating the calculations, there has been a month or two where that amount has been exceeded.

Mr. Shields asked what the solution is? Mr. Schlott stated that they are attempting to determine if there is more organic material entering the plant from somewhere specific, otherwise as mentioned previously, an application will need to be submitted to DEP requesting an increase in the permitted level of load. They will need to have a professional engineers report in order to request the paper re-rate through DEP.

Ms. McCarthy asked if there is anything else that could potentially be developed that could tie into the waste water treatment plant? Mr. Schlott noted that there are some additional houses on Faucett Drive that have the ability to request tie-in in the future. Mr. Hawkins stated there are probably 15-20 houses on Faucett Drive with that right. Mr. Schlott said that they have had 3 houses on Faucett Drive connect to the sewer plant since Arro became the township engineering firm in 2020. Mr. Schlott also noted that yesterday he received approval from DEP for the Connection Management Plan for this project and one additional house on Faucett Drive.

Mr. Hawkins asked about the Chester County Health Department approval? Mr. Schlott stated they have a similar questionnaire to what the Birmingham Township Planning Commission is completing tonight. Once all the Components (BTPC, CCPC and CCHD) are completed, they will be submitted to the township and a resolution will be adopted by the Birmingham Township Board of Supervisors to adopt this Planning Module and incorporate it into the 537 Plan.

Mr. Schlott reviewed the answers to each of the questions in Section C of the Sewage Facilities Planning Module questionnaire to verify that the Planning Commission was in agreement with the answers he checked. Discussion ensued about a couple of the answers.

Mr. Sauselein stated the next steps are: to compile the three components (BTPC, CCPC and CCHD); to obtain the township engineers input for component 3; and lastly to draw up a resolution for the Board of Supervisors to adopt. Then it all goes to DEP for review and approval.

#### **New Business/Public Comment:**

Mr. Shields stated he wants to resign his position as HARB liaison for the Planning Commission as his work and personal obligations do not allow him the time to spend on this additional township responsibility. Ms. McCarthy asked who else on the committee would like to step up to fill this role. Mr. Garrison would be willing to fill this role again if no one else wants to. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to nominate Mr. Garrison to fill the HARB liaison role for the remainder of 2023; seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:45pm by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Murphy and approved unanimously. Next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer A. Boorse  
PC Secretary