

Zoning and land use issues again debated at Herrick Twp.

by Theresa Opeka

Questions about conditional use permits, including how useful they are and why a longtime road worker was laid off are among many things discussed at the Monday, December 3 meeting of the Herrick Township Supervisors.

After the minutes were read from last month's meeting, Supervisor Elliot Ross asked if there were any additions or corrections. Ed Sandy addressed Ross saying, "You mentioned me after the meeting last month. You had a problem with my permit after the meeting." Ross replied, "This is not the time for it, it isn't in the minutes." Sandy said, "it is a zoning permit for a shed, not a conditional use permit. Ninety percent of the vehicles in my business are mine. Mr. Zembrzycki inspected it today. I never changed my property. It wasn't for a change of use. I never use my property for a bed and breakfast or restaurant." Ross said, "I never said anything at the meeting about it." Sandy said, "You are trying to slip something in with what you want to do." Ross replied, "We'll talk about it during public comment."

Later, during the public comment period, Ross told Sandy, "Look at your permit application to see if it was checked conditional use. If not, I apologize." Sandy said, "It was for a shed for my lawnmower. I do fix cars for friends but it is for my garage." Sandy said he had to rip down the one he had due to mold issues from this year's amount of rain. Ross said, "There is a sign at the end of the driveway that looks like a shop." Sandy replied, "The sign is low-key. It's not meant to stand out. I don't leave junk out. I don't

think you are using me to get out of your hearing." Ross said, "I'm not trying to get out of my hearing." Sandy said, "I'm not changing the use and I have no interest in running a public business."

Roseann Swegel said, "Our ordinances seem to be outdated using state standards. Are we going to update the ordinances?" Ross said, "It is something we need to look at." Swegel said, "Something should be done immediately." Ross replied, "That's your opinion, but I would like to get rid of it and use the county ordinances like other municipalities like Clifford, New Milford, Thompson, Union Dale, etc."

Swegel said it has helped the township to which Ross said he disagreed. "I'm not willing to spend township money. What has changed since it was first initiated is the Municipalities Planning Code. Before, it didn't require public hearings or legal counsel every step of the way. Five years after implementing it, the Planning Code changed. We have had 30 conditional use permits since we had the zoning ordinance. There should have been a public hearing for all of them and held to the same standard I am being held to. I will go through it. I don't think we are different than other municipalities. Lots of time, labor and money have been wasted. Now you need attorneys and a stenographer. The attorneys have made money. Others spent money and no one got anything. We used to have conditional use hearings and the planning commission would sit with the applicant asking questions. You can't do it anymore." Ross said, "Are you going to put out a referendum?" Ross replied, "I believe I can put out the decision but the other two (supervisors Nancy Harvatine and Brian Zembrzycki) have to agree. Things are not as friendly as

they used to be."

B.J. Zembrzycki asked, "You said other townships don't have zoning?" Swegel said Herrick was the only township in Susquehanna County that has zoning. He asked why zoning went in. Swegel said, "Because nothing said how far setbacks could go in other than the county's. It was created for some control." Ross said, "it was also created because a 10 story hotel wanted to go in at the base of Elk Mountain." Harvatine said, "Herrick already participated in the ESCP (Eastern Susquehanna County Partnership) for 10 years. We have a new draft zoning ordinance. I personally don't care to hire anyone else to do anything new. I would rather see that go forward." She said the planning commission was created in 1982, the ordinance in 1988 and it was updated in 1997. Ross said the ordinance stayed the same but areas have specific standards that go along with them (Elk Meadows, Village of Four Seasons, Lewis Lake, Lowe Lake, etc.) It was also mentioned earlier in the meeting that Ross was made a verbal offer for Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant by Kurt Schultz (which will be addressed further in another issue).

Someone asked if he bought the property then the permit wouldn't be needed if the use didn't change. Ross said, "I'm not commenting but no one made me any offers."

Another asked if the property was sold. Ross said no. Sandy said, "You were a champion of keeping the area rural. I came from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which is like a zoo. I don't think you have an education on what you brought in. This is going to be for heroin addicts. I told you I had a chef that was going to come in and you told me to contact a broker." Ross said he had no comment.

B.J. Zembrzycki said,

"From what I heard tonight and what I have seen, you never put a "For Sale" sign up." Ross said, "The property has been listed for 1.5 years with a realtor and word of mouth for 3 years." Someone also commented you don't want to put up a for sale sign because people may think you are closed.

The supervisors also briefly mentioned long-time road worker Joe Tedesco's unemployment. When asked why he was laid off, Supervisor/Road Master Brian Zembrzycki replied, "There wasn't any full-time work for him. We had a dispute. Joe said he needed a 40-hour week. With the building not being there, no one is getting a 40 hour week. I gave him things to do but there isn't anything now. I rather have him collect unemployment then go off and on." When asked if Tedesco was plowing roads during the first snowstorm last month, Zembrzycki said no, because it was only part-time work. "I have B.J. and Tony (Harvatine) willing to do part-time work." It was also asked when B.J., who is Brian's brother, was hired and if it was done at a meeting, Zembrzycki said a few months ago and it doesn't have to be done at a meeting. Matt Ferrel said Tedesco was a very good long-time employee and asked, "Are you going to hire him back when the building is back and to help with grading, etc.?" Brian replied, "Yes, I will bring him back."

A hearing on the conditional use permit for Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant will be held on Monday, December 17 at 6pm at the Speakeasy Saloon & Resort. The reorganizational meeting will take place on Monday, January 7 at 7pm at the Herrick Center Baptist Church. The regular monthly meeting will follow.

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Pleasant Mount News
 By Theresa Opeka
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Happy Birthday to: Grace O'Neil, Laura Houghtling, Sue Hoanzl, Adam Kulikowski, John Lewis Jr., Nicole Davis, Ed Travis Jr., Craig McGraw, Joseph Piotrowski, MacKenzie Hartman, Austin Lewis, Nathaniel Canfield, Lucy Lombardi, Krishman Patel, Amelia Bennett, Jim Correll, Ellie Burleigh, Mike Rosenfeld, Carrie Eltz, Brenda Baudendistal and Jason Vinton.

Happy Anniversary to: Tom and Alice Sampson.

Sarah Stephens, family and friends, held their 3rd Annual Haunted House at the Pleasant Mount Community Center in October. She raised \$320 which she donated back to the center. Good job Sarah!

The Lakewood Area Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, December 19, from 12:30pm-2:30pm, at the Northern Wayne Family Health Center, 412 Como Road, Lake Como. For an emergency need, please call 570-798-2229.

Some Welsh Christmas

traditions: From 3-6am on Christmas Day before the cockerel crowed, men gathered in rural churches to sing. They sang mainly unaccompanied, three or four-part harmony carols. It's called Plygain. Taffy making on Christmas Eve. Families made the treat leading up to Plygain. Toffee was boiled in open pans on open fires and dollops were dropped in icy cold water. The taffy curled into all sorts of shapes, like letters. This was a way of divining the initials of the younger, unmarried family members' future loves. A Welsh Christmas involved drinking from the wassail bowl. These bowls were often elaborate, ornate and had many handles. The bowl was filled with fruit, sugar, spices and topped with warm beer. As it was passed around, the drinkers would make a wish for a successful year's farming and a bumper crop at harvest time.

I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!!

Chair Yoga At Susq. County Senior Centers

The Senior Centers of B/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. offer many various activities, but for those looking for an easy way to stay fit, chair yoga is often first choice. The Lenoxville Senior Center, located on Route 374 in Lenox Township, holds chair yoga classes with Tiffany Debish on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30am. Tiffany Debish also instructs classes for the Forest City Senior Center, located at 535 Main Street in Forest City, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:30am. The Montrose Senior Center, located at 145 Church Street in Montrose, holds classes with instructor Charm Giangrieco on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month from 10:00am to 10:45am. Charm Giangrieco also instructs classes on the first and third Mondays on every month from 10:15am to 11:00am at the Lawton Senior Center, located at 54 State Route 3037 in Lawton. For more information, or to register, please call 1-800-634-3746. The B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging; the United Way of Bradford County; the Lycoming County United Way serving Wellsboro and Southern Tioga County; the United Way of Susquehanna County and the Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga County Commissioners. For additional information on Area Agency on Aging services, please call 1-800-982-4346.

Local author Lending library At Hist. Soc.

The Forest City Area Historical Society has established a lending library of books published by Forest City Area authors. The collection consists of about 40 books. Some of them are only existing local copies.

They can be borrowed by taking them from the shelf in the Museum and placing a name, address and other contact information on an attached clipboard listing. They should be returned in a reasonable length of time.

The Society also seeks submissions by any other area authors for addition of their works to the library. Contact Secretary Juliann Doyle at jdoyle@nep.net

Hist. Society Is seeking FC Yearbooks

The Forest City Area Historical Society needs the following Forest City Regional High School Yearbooks for its collection: 1957, 1965, 1978, 1983-84-86-87-88-89-91.

Anyone willing to provide any of these copies to the Society can contact Pres. John Kameen at 570-785-3800.

Get a subscription to the News 570-785-3800

LETTERS TO EDITOR

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Dear Editor:

I would first like to commend our High School and Miss Yuravich on the wonderful Christmas Concert on Dec. 11. It was a wonderful experience for the children and audience alike. But I was both surprised and disappointed in hearing a time honored Christmas song having the words changed from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holiday." No I don't need anyone to explain the reason, what I don't understand is why our society has to feel so threatened by a handful of folks that choose to be offended by such mundane matters. I say "Shame on us all." Merry Christmas Joe Franceski

Comm. Warren office hours Wed., Dec. 19

MaryAnn Warren, Susquehanna County Commissioner will meet with residents on Wednesday, December 19 between 1 PM and 3 PM at Elegante's Restaurant, Main Street, Forest City. She would like to hear if you have concerns or suggestions for our County. No appointment is necessary, her office number is 570.278.6604 if there's something in particular you need or if you would like to schedule an appointment, either in Forest City or Montrose. Stop by, share conversation and a slice of pizza and soda with your Commissioner. We look forward to seeing you.

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Cornerstone Christmas



Cornerstone Bible Church Worship Team is ready for the Christmas worship service on Sunday, December 23rd, 10:45 at 520 Marion Street in Broundale. All are invited to attend. Pictured from left to right: Melody Droppa, Gary Dragwa, Susan and Barry Sammartin, Jan Troiani and Sara Madden.

Addiction Recovery Program at Waymart Church

The Clinton Center Baptist Church, 1000 Waymart Turnpike, Waymart, will sponsor a Christ-centered and focused 12 step recovery program for those struggling with addiction of any kind. Closed meetings, for addicts only, will be held on Thurs. evenings at 7 p.m. Open meeting times to be announced. For info contact Pastor Carl Wiggins 570-319-5133

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