

July 5, 2022

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING July 5, 2022

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Phyllis Metz

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Don Sims

Jason Sarver

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Allen Bayer

Frank Grannon

Sam Hopkins - virtually

Josh Meeder - virtually

Jim Miller

Matt Racunas, Solicitor – virtually

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in-person and remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the June 7, 2022 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that the LGUDA documents were submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and is pending corrections. Greg Such reported that he will call on Thursday to get it straightened out. One was loans they were not aware of, that is an easy fix and the other item was something out of place on the filing.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported there are no appointments.

Council of Governments (COG):

Phyllis Metz had nothing new to report, the next meeting will be July 18th at 3:00pm.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the front steps at the water plant have been replaced.

Parks Board:

Greg Such reported that since Jackson Township put their trail in and connected it to ours, we have golf carts on the Harmony Trail, they are probably from Indian Brave Campground. Greg sent Laura a note letting her know that is prohibited according to park rules by ordinance and copied Chris Rearick on it; but still saw one after sending the note. Jason Sarver suggested getting signage for the Trail, Carts prohibited from this point on. Frank Luek suggested a sign at the intersection of the new trail. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that we could allow carts with an annual permit. Greg Such responded that is a good point, Ron Goehring had told Greg that he has a scooter that he would like to use on the trail. Frank Luek commented that the exception would be for handicap. Greg Such suggested three signs, No Motorized Vehicles and placing one at the beginning of the trail, the end of the trail and the new trail entrance. Frank Grannon is to get pricing.

Library Board:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

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Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Cath Rape commented that the steering committee is done. Greg Such reported that Zelenople did not pass the Act 537 because of questions lodged by Mr. Hulings. Lancaster's is done and Jackson still needs to do theirs. Cath Rape inquired if Zelig's steering committee agreed to this, why can't they vote on it whether there are questions from the residents or not. Jason Sarver responded that there were enough residents that came forward and purposed to Council that there were questions lingering that needed to be investigated. Greg Such commented that from the way Alex worded it in the newspaper, people who had questions were expecting a new report.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon reported limb pick-up is Thursday, July 7th.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Cath Rape commented that someone received a parking ticket for parking on German Street, that person didn't have to pay the ticket as the signs weren't legible, pictures were presented to the Magistrate. Cath would like the Borough to start a sign program and replace signs that cannot be read. Parking is already an issue in this town and we need to make the signs more legible. Greg Such inquired if those signs had been replaced, Cath responded that they are still there. Greg Such commented that we have money in the budget for signs. Frank Grannon commented that the sign budget is getting pretty thin. Don Sims recommended that Frank get a price for 5 signs.

Historic Harmony:

Greg Such reported that Rod is at home recovering from a stroke; JoAnnette said he is doing pretty well. Joe Dippold reported that July 16th there is CD release party at Old Economy Village from 2-4 for Eugene Friesen's CD.

HBA:

Cath Rape had nothing new to report, no meeting.

Other Meetings:

Stormwater Management Meeting – Greg Such reported that he sent out Jerry Ondrea's recap of the last meeting they had with Commissioner Boozel. The Commissioners have concern that they cannot get any participation from communities north of Rt. 422; the communities are small. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that they are part-time. Cath Rape commented that this month's meeting is in Cranberry, she would like the next meeting to possibly be in Harmony, in the Swampoodle area. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he would like to push for the retention pond behind Phyllis's. Phyllis Metz commented on

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Other Meetings:

Stormwater Management Meeting Cont.:

Greg Such reported that the \$5 license plate upgrade fee that Butler County charges has a grant associated with it. The particulars have not yet come out but there are some communities that have received that grant.

The Commissioners have put the Penn Vest Infrastructure program together for a trail in Butler County only at this time, the money comes from ARPA. Phyllis Metz commented that it cannot be used on the roads. It can be used for storm water, surface drainage, and drinking water.

Greg Such reported that the Commissioner are encouraging communities to be creative and to look at all the funding sources that are available to stack grants together. Grants such as the original ARPA grants, the license fee grants, Penn Vest and the Infrastructure Bank and anything else that may be out there. Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Water Authority is looking into to it as well. Greg Such reported that he would propose that the borough look at how to start work on getting Mercer Street paved, Don Sims reminded Greg that we would dig it up again when we do the storm water project. Greg inquired if the borough could use other monies to get that project moving, at least from Mercer Street to the creek done and roll the paving in with it. Greg will call Mark Gordon to see how the borough could do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sam Hopkins – 132 S. Pittsburgh Street – Sam commented on the paving of Main Street and the Neff House being surrounded by Road Closed signs, it should say Road Closed Tomorrow. Sam's shop received a bunch of calls asking how to get to his shop because the roads are closed. Sam had called Frank and asked if the Road Closed signs could come down until tomorrow when the road would be closed. Frank said the pavers had put the Road Closed signs up and he could not take them down; but the road was open. Frank felt it was a liability issue as the road was rough after milling. Sam would like the borough to purchase traffic and road management signs, such as Rough Road, Road Closed Ahead, Road Closed On, Bump, Thru Traffic, etc. so that Frank could correctly manage the roads.

Sam reported that he watched three girls almost get hit at the Pittsburgh Street/Rt. 68 crosswalk and suggested the Borough form a pedestrian safety committee with three council members, the Mayor and three residents to present information to the borough and to keep things rolling to make the town a safer place. Jason Sarver inquired when the next Committee meetings were going to be, maybe the Safety Committee or the Street Committee could discuss this. Frank Luek inquired if the sign was still up at Pittsburgh Street. Greg Such responded that it is still flashing. Cathy Rape commented that the borough has a Road Closed Ahead sign. Frank Grannon responded we have one. Greg Such commented that the signs will be gone tomorrow, they could not pave today due to the rain. Sam Hopkins commented that it's a problem every time there is an event, the Road Closed signs go up before his shop. There should be Road Closed Ahead signs up and Thru Traffic This Way, but we do not have the signs. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the pavers put the signs up to protect themselves. Cath Rape commented to check with the pavers, they may have other signs. Don Sims suggested that if they do not pave tomorrow, we will ask the pavers to bag the signs.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONT.:

Josh Meeder – Josh inquired where the proposal was on drainage. Greg Such commented that the borough has high level prices on doing drainage from Rt. 68 to the creek, the estimate was \$479,000. They discussed with the Commissioners to get the drainage corrected from Mercer Street to the creek and the funding they could recommend. Greg also commented that Josh and Sam need to figure out where the pipe is going. Sam Hopkins commented that he and Tom (Thompson) were both on vacation. Josh Meeder commented that he has been saying to bring it through his property. Sam doesn't want a pipe in his property because he is going to develop it. Josh Meeder commented that he has his property listed and he doesn't know if the new owner will be as amicable as he is and is pushing for a solution to use his property. Greg Such commented digging under another building is not a great option for the borough. Josh Meeder responded the piece of the building it needs to go under is on stilts with no foundation, it needs to drill about 30 feet. Don Sims commented that it would need to go to Tom Thompson because of boring under a structure, is Josh going to release the Borough of any liability if the building collapses? Josh Meeder commented that the liability already exists because of the erosion. Greg Such commented that Tom Thompson's recommendation is to go between the buildings, not to go under Josh's other building. Sam Hopkins commented that he does not want the pipe on his property, it puts two historic buildings at risk, one an original Harmonite and it interferes with the development. Cath Rape commented that if Bergstrom's is an option, the borough takes the property. Don Sims and Greg Such commented that council cannot fix it tonight. Josh Meeder commented that the point he wanted to make is the option Tom is investigating does not appear to be a viable one and Josh wants to move something towards something that is.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that he had a lot of time in grass cutting, but it is slowing down a little bit. The No Parking sign has been put up on Wood Street. Installed 95 feet of pipe and the catch basin on Main Street. Main Street has been milled and will be paved tomorrow. Frank reported that the crosswalks painting is on his schedule but have had to be pushed back and pushed back due to vacations. Frank received a quote to have an outside company paint the main crosswalks, the quote is for \$18,950. The majority of that is in labor costs on traffic control. That is out of the borough's budget, as soon as Frank can get a guy from the Water and Cath to help, he will get the main crosswalks done. Greg Such inquired if the NO TRUCKS will be repainted on the street. Cath Rape commented that it wasn't helping. Greg responded that it does help, look at the spreadsheet. Chief Miller suggested switching the words from the way it is painted now, write it upside down so it reads NO TRUCKS.

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Frank Luek inquired if the corner on First Street was being paved. Frank Grannon replied yes and stated he is waiting to see if there is anything leftover from paving Main Street instead of using the hot box. Cath Rape inquired if Frank was going to make a handicap with the pavement. Frank Grannon responded yes; he is going to blend it in with the street. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if Frank would have enough to build up around the hole in front of Thomas's to keep the water from ponding there. Frank Luek commented around the catch basin to keep the water flowing. Frank Grannon reported that he needs a month to work on equipment maintenance. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the lights should be coming back in and will need put up.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted via email.

Engineer Report:

Tom Thompson was unable to attend the meeting.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she received a very nice thank-you card from the woman from the Wine Walk. Phyllis reported that she received an email from Grace Church asking permission to use the Borough parking lot on Sunday, September 11th for a Christian singer/song writer concert they are hosting. They need to park a 45' bus and 25' trailer close to the church from 10am-10pm. Council was in agreement to allow the bus and trailer to be parked in the Borough building parking lot from 10am-10pm on Sunday, September 11th. If they will not fit, they could ask Robinson or US Liner.

Phyllis Metz also reported that she received a note from Laura for the Ride for Kids Day on August 11th, no event form was submitted. Phyllis emailed Laura and said the Event Form was not necessary, they just ride through town, but if she wanted to fill one out then the borough would know when it is.

Business Development:

Cath Rape had nothing new to report.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver reported that they need an executive session to discuss personnel.

Finance:

Greg Such reported that the borough received a fair amount of income tax money.

Streets:

Don Sims had nothing further to report, Frank covered it.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi commented on the unpaved sidewalk on Grandview, there are difference of opinions on who's it is. Allen Bayer reported that it is Water Street, and used as a driveway for Eppinger's. The property line for the building runs right alongside of the building, because it is Water Street, the property line for the two boroughs runs to the left of that. Greg Such commented that he thought Water Street

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was vacated and the property was owned by Eppinger's. Dave Szakelyhidi commented abandoned or never opened, he's not sure which one. Greg Such commented that there is an Ordinance that states the owners have responsibility of that street. Jason Sarver inquired why council is trying to determine ownership. Greg Such responded that Dave wants the sidewalk paved. Jason Sarver commented that if it is in Zelienople, they require a 10' apron. Greg Such will look for the Water Street document and send it out to council and go from there.

Mayor Cath Rape commented on the weeds and grass on curbs, homeowners do not maintain the curb, Cath would like the Borough to buy spray and kill the weeds because the weeds are damaging the curbs and then the borough spends money to fix the asphalt, it is ugly looking and makes our town look terrible. Cath reported last month that the trees needed trimmed in the Triangle and Grandview by the new lights. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that is Robinson's tree on Grandview. Cath Rape responded that they are the borough's street lights and Robinson is paying for the electric. The crosswalks and stop lines still need painted, the Wine Walk brought in 600 people, Artisan's Saturdays, the Home and Garden Tour brought in hundreds of people and the concerts; the ice cream shop was discussed, a crosswalk should have been put on German and Main Street right away after paving, just to get people on the crosswalk instead of crossing in the middle of the street. Many people disregard stop signs and the line would draw their attention to it, especially on Mercer Street. Greg Such commented that we've already talked about the crosswalks. Cath stated that she wants something done and suggested raising taxes to pay an outside company to do the spraying, the trimming and line painting. She wants to live in a town where it is safe and clean. It was said that it would happen the first part of June. Don Sims commented that this is a Borough Council meeting not the Borough Mayor's meeting, if Cathy would like to have a Borough Mayor's meeting, he suggests the second Tuesday of the month. Council has heard her list of items; they have been reviewed and considered. Don also commented that we do not come in every month and go after our employees. Cath Rape responded that she is going after Council, raise taxes and hire someone else to help work. Frank Grannon commented that she can find another employee to spray weeds, he is not spraying weed kill and getting cancer.

Grants:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Listed on the Correspondence List.

BILLS PAYABLE:

Greg Such reported that the following lists of bills were presented to Harmony Borough Council for approval:

General Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **3,800.31**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **7,816.95**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **11,457.77** (\$ 11,210.41 after HBWA)

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **156.90**

Liquid Fuels Payable in the amount of \$ **1,560.21**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **2,304.68**

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In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

Greg Such called for an executive session called at 8:00pm to discuss personnel. Out of executive session at 8:15pm.

Adjourned: 8:15pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the July 5, 2022 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Brown".

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Monthly Activity Report
Harmony Borough Code and Zoning Enforcement and
Residential Multi-Unit Dwellings Fire Inspection

June 2022

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. I attended the June HARB meeting.
4. I attended the June Council meeting.
5. I spoke with Matt, Pela windows 631-759-0566, regarding building permit requirements in Harmony Borough for nonstructural construction.
6. I spoke with Mark Fortunato, 307 Mercer Rd. regarding permitting requirements for a fence in his rear yard. I referred Mark to Jackson TWP.
7. I created a vegetation violation for 241 Mercer St.
8. I responded to Mayor's Rapes comments regarding rats on Seneca Dr.
9. I spoke with Sam Hopkins regarding signage at the Neff House.
10. I completed a building permit for signage at the Neff House.
11. I spoke with Steve Gross about his continued harassment by his neighbor and her dog after receiving the violation notice. I told Steve if he can provide a picture of the dog off of the owner's property and not on a leash, I will fine the owner and go to court if necessary. I told Steve that harassment is a civil issue that he would need to pursue with the police or courts.
12. I completed side yard fence building permit for 768 Spring St.
13. I performed violations inspection from Mercer at the square to the barn including Spring and Wood Sts.

14. I spoke to Nicole Chardon, Coldwell Banker, regarding property subdivision. I referred Nicole to Jackson Twp.
15. I emailed Matt Racunas. regarding our Shu Brew sidewalk violation hearing on Friday 6/17/22.
16. I completed building permits for a shed at 614 Wood St. and a rear deck and roof at 128 S. Pittsburgh St.
17. I Inspected a violation of bushes thrown into the Connoquenessing Creek at 265 Mercer Rd. I prepared a violation notice for same.
18. I stopped by the office to sign the violation notice and obtain information needed to process violation at 265 Mercer St.
19. I did the preparation of information for violation notices from Mercer at the square to the barn including Spring and Wood Sts.
20. I prepared 18 violation notices.
21. I inspected Main and adjoining streets and identified 11 violations.
22. I did preparation of information for 11 violation notices.
23. I created 11 violation notices.
24. I spoke to Laura Beaver regarding a permit for a foot bridge over a creek. I referred Laura to Harmony TWP.
25. I spoke to Ron Deal, Pennwood Appraisal Service regarding 415 E. New Castle St. rear addition being an Accessory structure.
26. I spoke with Chad Melvin, Sign Innovation, regarding upgrading Dambaugh's sign.
27. I spoke with Tom Safaera, Seneca Dr., regarding building a shed behind his house and enclosing his deck.
28. I spoke with Elizabeth on Main St. regarding permit requirement to replace a cement patio off the back of her house,
29. I performed violation inspections along Mercer St. south from Liberty to Utah resulting in 12 violations.

30. I responded to Jackson McGough on behalf of Scenic America asking about zoning requirements for billboards in the borough.
31. I spoke with Susan Webb regarding how to deal with 3 racoons coming onto her property from Rodgers Barn.
32. I did preparation of information for 12 violation notices.
33. I prepared 12 violation notices.
34. I inspected Mercer north side from Liberty west, Jackson, Liberty and Monroe identifying 9 violations. I did the preparation of information for the 9 violations.
35. I clarified a sidewalk violation with Pat Murray.
36. I spoke again with Jackson McGough regarding billboard signage in the borough.
37. I prepared 9 violation notices.
38. I stopped by the office to pick up mail and sign 9 violation notices.
39. I prepared June 2022 Monthly Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer