

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2016

From the Supervisors: On February 11, 2016, we held a joint meeting with Waynesboro Borough Council, the managers of both communities and the Mayor to discuss topics of interest for both municipalities. We have held these meetings usually on an annual basis to help keep both Boards apprised of items that we can work together on to help make our community a better place to live and work. This year's meeting was no different and we look forward to working with the Borough on these initiatives as we proceed into the future.

Zoning Code Amendments – The Washington Township Planning Commission will hold an open public meeting to take comments on the below outlined changes to the zoning text at the regular meeting on March 14th starting 7:00 PM. Following this open meeting the Washington Township Supervisors will hold an official public hearing on these proposed changes at their regular meeting on March 21, 2016 beginning at 7:00 PM. Complete copies of these two ordinances can be read on the township's web page at www.washtwp-franklin.org.

If you are unable to attend either of these meetings and wish to send written comments to the township you may do so by mailing or dropping off your comments at the township office at 13013 Welty Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Zoning Code Amendment changes include:

1. Where accessory building can be located on a property.
2. Amends how rebuilding of nonconforming buildings will be handled.
3. Permits duplex dwelling units in the R-1 zoning district as a conditional use.
4. Amends how many units and floors in a multifamily dwelling in the R-2 district.
5. Removes an apartment requirement in the commercial district.
6. Reduces the area requirements for multiple use buildings in the commercial district.
7. Amends the requirement for a single apartment in the commercial district.
8. Amends the commercial and commercial neighborhood districts minimum lot requirements.
9. Amends the open space requirements for horses in the forest conservation district.
10. Amends the R-1 district to permit a small number of chickens on a 40,000 square foot or larger lots.

Conditional Use Decision: The Washington Township Supervisors approved the application of Jeffie Ramsey on February 1, 2016 for a conditional use permit to operate his trucking business from his property on Gehr Rd. with conditions. The complete decisions including the conditions may be read on the Township's web page at www.washtwp-franklin.org. Click on the Blue tab on left for Meetings, then Minutes and Decisions, and then Conditional Use Decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Clint Rock, Township Planner at 762-3128.

Alternate Township Planning Commission Member: As a result of a new law passed in Harrisburg, the Township is permitted to have alternate Planning Committee members participate in Planning Commission meeting and vote when a member is absent from the meeting.

The Township is very pleased to announce that Scott Shacreaw has agreed to serve as our new alternate Planning Commission member.

When you see Scott thank him for agreeing to serve on our Planning Commission.

Earned Income Tax: Washington Township residents are required to pay a Local Earned Income Tax and a Net Profit Tax each year. The tax rate is 1% of the earnings and is shared equally between the Waynesboro Area School District and the Township.

If you work in Maryland, West Virginia or are self-employed this tax may not be withheld from your earnings. If this is the case, you are required to pay quarterly estimated payments to the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau.

The Tax Bureau is located at 443 Stanley Avenue in Chambersburg and their phone number is 717-263-5141 if you have any questions or if you need the tax forms mailed to you. The website link is www.fcatb.org for more information.

In order to avoid interest and penalty charges added to your tax liability please contact the tax bureau as soon as possible to determine how best to resolve your tax situation.

5K Run/Walk and Beer & Wine Festival at the Pine Hill Regional Recreation Area–

On April 30, 2016 starting at 10:00 a.m. a 5K run and walk will occur followed by a Beer & Wine Festival at 11:00 a.m. This event will support both the Rouzerville Business Association and the Rouzerville Lions Club. Registration is online at www.PineHill5K.org and by mail-in forms which are available at Olympia Sports – 12777 Washington Twp. Blvd., Ronnie Martin Realty – 1625 E. Main St. or the Township Supervisors Office – 13013 Welty Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268. Tickets for the Pine Hill Beer & Wine Festival are also available for purchase at Ronnie Martin Realty, Inc. For more information please contact William Conrad at w_conrad@comcast.net or (717) 762-9514.

Mountaintop Community Spring Event: Mark your calendars! Saturday March 19th is the 8th Annual Mountaintop Community Spring Event, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Blue Ridge Mt. Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Fire Hall, 13063 Monterey Ln., Blue Ridge Summit, PA. This is the 8th year for this fund raiser to benefit the Amanda Bowders Community Memorial Garden. There will be Collectible Road Show appraisals and artisans, historians, crafters and authors. Bring the kids... don't miss the Soolah Hoops hoola hoop show at 1:00 pm. Displays of local history items as well as historical and art mini-lectures and demonstrations ongoing throughout the day. Listen to entertainment by Rich Fehle and enjoy good food from the fire company kitchen. For more information contact Lynn or Duke Martin at (717) 642-5645 or jacksmtn@embarqmail.com.

Monterey Pass Battlefield Park & Museum to host Dan Toomey: On April 9th, 2016 The Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, Inc. will be holding an event titled “The Healing of a Wounded Nation” presented by **Dan Toomey** at the Park & Museum located at 14325 Buchanan Trail E., Waynesboro, PA 17268. For more information please see their website at www.montereypassbattlefield.org or email Alicia Miller, Chair, FMPB, Inc. at admiller@montereypassbattlefield.org. More details will be provided in this column next month.

Police Department Alerts: NIXLE subscribers can sign up to receive instant updates via text messages and/or emails directly from Washington Township Police, no need to be logged into a computer somewhere to receive information. To sign up for NIXLE using a smart phone, text your zip code to 888777. You can also register and receive notifications online at NIXLE's website at www.nixle.com. Check in with WTPD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/washingtontownshippolicedepartment or Tweet us at Twitter @WTPD_Franklin

Snow Removal Damage: When the snow finally melts, if you have yard damage in front of your property and you are located on a Township roadway, please call the Township office at 762-3128 during regular business hours to report the damage. The Township's Public Works department will then repair the damage as weather permits.

Pot Hole Repair: Please report any pot holes on Township maintained roadways to the office as well. We maintain over 85 miles of roadways so we are not always able to get over all the roadways in a timely manner. By reporting the pot hole to the office, we will be able to repair it faster avoiding damage to vehicles and the need to repair a larger pot hole. For pot holes on PennDOT roads please call Franklin County PennDOT directly at 264-4171.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries: It is recommended by fire companies that people change batteries in their battery-powered smoke detectors twice a year when the time changes. Since the time changes on March 13th, we would like to once again remind individuals to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

If you need help checking your batteries, or if you would like additional information, call your local fire company. Each fire company in our area is willing to come to your home to assist you with your smoke detector.

Tax Collector News: The 2016 Franklin County/Washington Township real estate notices (bills) will be mailed on March 1st, 2016. Anyone who has not received notice for his or her property by the end of the first week of March should contact the tax collector, Don Ambrose at 762-1760.

Please keep in mind that the tax collector's office is in the gray administrative building directly behind the white building where the police officers are located on Welty Road. The tax office door is located on the south facing side of the gray building and is marked with a sign. There is a night deposit box by the door for after-hour drop offs. In March Mr. Ambrose's office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until noon or by appointment, which can be set by calling the tax office at the above listed number.

Extended hours in **APRIL** are as follows:

Tuesday & Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm

Thursday 9 am - 1 pm and 5 - 7 pm

Saturday 9 am - noon.

March Dates to Remember

- 1 & 15:** WTMA Meetings – 7:15 p.m.
- 2, 16 & 30:** Supervisors Workshop – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 & 21:** Supervisors Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 14:** Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 25: GOOD FRIDAY:**
Township Office & Tax Office will be CLOSED
Transfer Station will be OPEN
- 28:** Zoning Hearing Board (if needed) – 7:30 p.m.