

**Jim Thorpe Borough Planning Commission Meeting
September 20, 2022
Minutes**

The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Louis Hall. The meeting was held in Memorial Hall, 115 East 10th Street, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Roll Call of Members

Joe Micko	Louis Hall	Bob Schaninger-absent
Joanne Klitsch	James Dougher	Nancy Porambo
John McGuire-absent		

Visitor's Present

None

Hearing of Visitors

None

Minutes and Motions

MOTION by James Dougher, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the August 16, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-0-1, with Nancy Porambo abstaining because she was not at last month's meeting.

LSA Monroe Grants

MOTION by James Dougher, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Planning Commission recommendation letter for the LSA Monroe Grant-Asa Packer Mansion**. Louis Hall recommended that Borough Council include pictures of the items of concern within the mansion. James Dougher explained that it's not Planning Commission's responsibility to make sure the grant is written correctly, just that ordinances are being followed properly. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Nancy Porambo to **approve the Planning Commission recommendation letter for the LSA Monroe Grant-Kemmerer Park**. James Dougher explained the lease agreement with the Borough. The lease was a 25-year lease. The purpose of the lease was for the Borough to help the Kemmerer Park Association acquire grants for which they are unable to apply for. Motion carries 4-0-1, with James Dougher abstaining because he is the Secretary for the Kemmerer Park Association.

Ogden/Bennick time extension approval by Borough Council

Louis Hall would like clarification from Solicitor Nanovic where it is stated denying an extension requires a specific reason in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

Schweibinz final plans approved by Borough Council

No comments

Kanick time extension approval by Borough Council

No comments

Zoning Ordinances

Draft Zoning Ordinance

Any questions or comments or changes needing to be made must be done so by November 18, 2022. Louis Hall recommended to prioritize the top items that were highlighted in the memo from Borough Manager Sterner due to how large the document is. The plan is to have no more than 3 Planning Commission members get together to discuss this document a few Sunday evenings before the November due date.

Special District Proposed Ordinance

There is still concern over the ½ mile buffer and how that number came about. Nancy Porambo asked if Planning Commission can speak with someone at the county level. Joanne Klitsch explained the concerns that if a property owner would challenge the current Ordinance in court, the Borough would lose because it cannot provide documented justification of why the ½ mile was chosen over any other distance. Louis Hall said the Ordinance is written fine the way it is and that the Borough needs to stop caving to individuals that threaten to sue. He believes that the Kanick's should have to hook up to the Borough's sewer line instead of using on-lot systems for Kanick's subdivision plans. James Dougher explained that the sewer plant and current sewer lines cannot handle that addition. Louis Hall said it's not Planning Commission's problem, that it's the Borough's problem. Secretary Klotz explained that currently there are more documented problems with the sewer within the Borough compared to on lot systems. Louis Hall said he went to the September 17th Heritage Festival at Mauch Chunk Lake and approached 130 people to sign a petition to be sent to Borough Council opposing the proposed zoning amendment. Of those 130 people, 121 people signed it. Secretary Klotz asked how many of the people who signed the petition were Borough residents. Louis Hall said it did not matter, this issue effects more than just Borough residents; it effects the entire County.

SALDO lot consolidation amendment follow up

All concerns were addressed from last month's meeting.

Old Business

None

Suggestions or Recommendations

Louis Hall recommended that in the future Planning Commission discuss the possibility of a Parking Authority. Joanne Klitsch advised against it.

Adjournment

MOTION by Nancy Porambo, second by James Dougher to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary