

# PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

J. Pepper Goslin • John E. Schroeder • Lori L. Crossen

Monday through Thursday, closed Friday | Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Meeting: First Monday, 7:00 p.m.



## **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting January 14, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Providence Township Parks and Recreation Committee was held in the township municipal office on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Providence Township Supervisors John Schroeder and J. Pepper Goslin, Township Manager Vicki Eldridge and ten (10) observers. There were no parks and recreation committee members in attendance.

The Township Manager opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Schroeder asked if any committee members are still serving. He encourages those in attendance to join the committee and volunteer.

Mr. Goslin handed out a draft idea for trail rules involving horse use on the trail. Mr. Goslin stated these are his ideas which may be a place to begin discussion. Mr. Goslin would like to see all trail users to be respectful of others. Mr. Goslin feels the trail is public resource and he would like to see as many people use the trail as possible.

Warren Walter asked how you have the right to disturb vegetation on the trail since the 2014 ordinance stated no vegetation was to be disturbed.

Lillian Basom is concerned about the low fencing at the Church Street Bridge. She stated even though the girth of horse is wide, only an area of eighteen inches wide is needed for a horse to walk. She stated that the Susquehanna Equestrian Club would raise several thousand dollars to support this cause. She has also talked to tack shops in the area about building mounting blocks along the trail. She feels cost should not be a driving factor to deny horse use on the trail.

Mr. Schroeder read an email from Ms. Basom that outlines rules she created for horseback use on the trail.

Warren Walter asked for the schedule of the placement of signage and the adoption of the ordinance. Mr. Goslin stated all improvements and signage would be to be posted prior to adopting an ordinance.

Lori Walter asked the supervisors what has changed since the adoption of the last ordinance that prohibited horse use on the trail. She read from the ordinance that the horses cause damage to the trail, thus the reason for the prohibition.

Ron Munro stated the only thing that has changed is now we have three new supervisors.

Laurie Siegrist asked how many of the pro-horse people in attendance were from Providence Township. Only two of those in attendance were from the township. She also asked if the supervisors have contacted Quarryville Borough since the busiest section of trail is between Quarryville and Fairview 2. She asked why the busiest section of the trail was chosen for horse use.

Mr. Schroeder stated that the township solicitor was consulted regarding any accidents that may happen on the trail. Mr. Schroeder stated the focus of this meeting was to develop a plan. He was disappointed that the only thing that happens at these meetings is to rehash concerns and not move forward.

Mr. Munro stated that Mr. Goslin ran for office on the platform that he does not like the overreach of government. Mr. Munro feels that if horses are approved that would be an overreach of government. He feels that the supervisors are pushing their own agenda not those of their constituents. He asked the supervisors to place a referendum on the ballot to allow the residents of Providence Township to make this decision. Mr. Goslin does not feel that allowing horses on the trail is an overreach of government.

Lori Walter asked if there is a verbal or written agreement from the other townships on the trail not to allow horseback riding.

Kelly Stigall-Jones asked why people aren't opened to giving horseback riders a chance to use the trail.

Mr. Goslin feels that if you have responsible equine users on the trail that model sportsmanship, it may help make others more responsible.

Dan Siegrist asked how money raised from equine groups benefits the Providence Township Community. He said it only benefits horseback riders, not the entire community.

Lori Walter agreed that a referendum should be placed on the ballot.

Laurie Siegrist asked how the crossing over the trail surface would be handled.

Mr. Schroeder shared some sign pricing. The township purchased several 18 X 18 inch signs for the trail this year at a cost of \$27 each.

Warren Walter asked is there are any parks committee volunteers still serving on the committee.

Lori Walter feels the supervisors actions have caused the volunteers to quit. Mr. Schroeder disagreed.

Mr. Schroeder asked the manager to invite Brian Longenecker, the parks and recreation committee chairman to the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.