

Kurt Williams

From: Ellen <ellryan@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Kurt Williams
Cc: 'Angie Pabon'
Subject: Public Comment for Virtual Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance 2020-C Scheduled for Monday, July 27 2020 at 6:30 PM
Attachments: Public Comments for Conewago Township Zoning Hearing for 7.27.20.pdf

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see attached public comments for the Virtual Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020 . Thank you.

Respectfully,
Ellen Ryan
Conewago Resident

July 20, 2020

Dear Supervisors:

First, thank you for the conducting this Zoning Hearing on July 27, 2020 to study and review this important Ordinance and thank you for taking time to read my comments.

I urge you to support zoning ordinances protecting and preserving all the agricultural lands in the Township. If that means reversing erroneous zoning ordinances, you must be compelled to do so. Additionally, according to the PA Constitution, the people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Article 1, Section 27/PA Constitution.

Every elected official and every appointed one must protect and defend the US & PA Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic.

Citizens are concerned about the consequences of overdevelopment and the zoning ordinances changing Ag lands to residential and the loss of agricultural land in the township. Exponential, unsustainable, overdevelopment leads to urban sprawl, crime, water pollution, air quality concerns, loss of scenic, historic views, esthetic environmental values and issues, increased taxes and more.

It is time to pause on any recommendations when businesses are failing and when there is so much turmoil and uncertainty. Food security today, is critical because of unforeseen national, and regional natural disasters such as: droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, sink holes, pandemics, epidemics, and civil unrest. Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards and elected Boards of Supervisors cannot ignore potential Black Swan events. It is not of matter of if, as we have learned, it is a matter of when. The when is now.

Therefore, it is unwise to recommend land use and zoning ordinances that lead to doubling and tripling the population. It is the duty of all elected and appointed bodies to protect the township from unsafe, dangerous, and adverse conditions.

Dealing with emergencies is extremely expensive and very difficult in over developed and crowded communities. It is time to reverse all zoning decisions that changed agricultural lands to residential. Capacity matters. The Growth never pays for the emergency departments and services required. Local Food security and food production is important. Besides the pandemic emergency orders, some densely populated urban areas that were COVID HOT SPOTS also experienced riots, violence, and looters this summer. The township residents do not want to become the next Baltimore, Washington D.C., or Philadelphia.

Moreover, it is time to reconsider and revisit the very erroneous build everything in sight outdated concept. Since the COVID shutdown, the economy has contracted and many local businesses have closed their doors. The Planning Commission, the Zoning Board and of course the elected Board of Supervisors must consider these actualities, in the here and now, when voting on Township Land Use and Zoning proposals.

The over development in neighboring municipalities is the cause of, poorly maintained roads, traffic fatalities, emergencies, higher taxes, and need for more services. If bad laws, exist protecting developers, over residents, citizens must demand repeal of such harmful laws, and ordinances, and demand that every ordinance be examined and studied to ensure it does not violate the PA Constitution and common sense. Instead of residential land development, the Township needs to focus on Land Preservation. The belief that subdivisions and residential development increase township revenues is also totally flawed. Growth never pays for itself.

Planning & Zoning Boards and Board of Supervisors, can no longer recommend and approve the build on everything in sight model. It is time to pause on residential expansion in order to conserve and preserve the irreplaceable land that sustains us.

In closing, I urge you to support ordinances protecting and preserving all the agricultural lands in the Township. If that means reversing erroneous zoning ordinances, it is the right thing to do.

“We must not only protect the countryside and save it from destruction; we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities. (Boroughs, Townships, Hamlets) Once our natural splendor is destroyed, it can never be recaptured. And once a man can no longer walk with beauty or wonder with nature, his spirit will wither and his sustenance is wasted...” Lyndon B. Johnson (36th U.S. President)

Respectfully,

Ellen Ryan
36 Franklin Drive
McSherrystown, PA 17344
Conewago Township Resident