

# UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES

April 06, 2022

1. Call to order

The April 6, 2022, Special Meeting Work Session of the Upper Gwynedd Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President of the Board, Denise Hull at 2:03 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Deanna Logan, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager. The individuals in attendance were:

Denise M. Hull	President
Katherine D. Carter	Vice-President
Liz K. McNaney	Commissioner
Martha A. Simelaro	Commissioner
Ruth S. Damsker	Commissioner
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager

It is noted that Commissioner Damsker joined the meeting at 2:17 pm.

4. Announcement of Executive Sessions

There were no executive sessions.

5. Public comments and concerns (limit of five minutes per individual)

Fred Hencken, 802 Clover Drive, asked why meeting is not being broadcast. Mrs. Zadell replied this is similar to a budget worksession which we do not broadcast due to the cost as there will be no formal action taken at today's meeting. He also commented about the time of the meeting. The formal list of goals, when complete will be made public.

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6. Review of Goals for 2022

Mrs. Zadell reviewed the status of 2020/2021 goals of what was completed or deferred and noted that it was a large list of goals, and many were completed despite the pandemic. She suggested the goals for 2022 goals be pared down.

A discussion ensued regarding what 2021 goals to move forward.

- Hold meetings at various locations in the Township. This is no longer needed since we now visually record our meetings.

## UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Schedule time for citizens to meet with Manager and staff. This can move forward, but Mrs. Zadell is available to meet with residents at their request.
- Develop a curriculum for a Citizens Academy with a focus on inclusive community conversations. Mrs. Zadell will add the Citizens Academy to her goals and will incorporate some of the information in the weekly e-newsletter
- Consider Traffic Calming in specific neighborhoods. This is a 3-star item in the Comp Plan. We will discuss this further at the 2023 Budget Meetings for a possible consultant to assist with this project. Staff will discuss with this with Chief Duffy
- RFP for a Transportation Master Plan for UGT. This is the same as above
- Consider adding Sewer Payments to the Tax Bill. This will be discussed with the Finance Department to see if it will improve or confuse things

Jim Thompson, 1222 Scobee Dr. asked if the newsletters are copyrighted? Mrs. Zadell replied no. Mr. Thompson volunteered to help with the Citizens Academy.

The Commissioners brainstormed ideas for 2022 goals at a public meeting in January.

Mrs. McNaney said she reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and selected the areas that were rated 3 stars and above as a starting point for the goals.

The Commissioners discussed the following items to see if they will be included in the 2022 Goals list; #1, #5, #9, #10 and #11.

#1 Work with FD on new building project – in progress – include in 2022/23 goals list

#5 Expand and update TOD per comp plan (pg. 42 and 180). Mrs. Zadell will reword this to include affordable housing. Mrs. Hull said this goal is an extension of the Station Square Apt. development to go across the street. There have been some developers interested in pursuing this option. This will be included in the 2022/23 goals list.

George Cressman, 612 Brookwood Ln., suggested making a list of 5 items from the 2021 goals and 5 from 2022 goals and also to define "inclusive".

#9 Update Zoning and SALDO to encourage physical improvements and redevelopment of underutilized areas. A discussion ensued to defer this for review in 2023.

#10 Assess and increase Township Communications

The Township has increased communication with the residents through social media, expanded agenda, newsletter and e-newsletter. Suggestion: add a section pertaining to seniors to the e-newsletter. This will not be added to goals list.

#11 Consider creating additional walking paths

This is in process with the Liberty Bell Trail and Power Line Trail.

Continuation of the 2022 list

#1 See above

#2 Increase affordable housing – A discussion ensued regarding affordable housing and aging in place. Mrs. Zadell will reword the goal to include the expansion of the TOD with a focus on affordability

#3 Reduce blight – This is not a goal as the Township is limited on controlling blight.

#4 West Point Village comprehensive plan. This will be deferred to the future.



## UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jim Thompson said there is a difference between natural lands and open spaces and we should encourage the existence of natural space because an open space is not environmentally sound. He asked, how small a parcel of land would constitute a natural land? Mrs. Zadell said naturalized lands have their own set of issues with residents. Mr. Thompson said we are parceling too much of our land out in unfriendly environmental spaces for the natural environment.

#5 See above

#6 Explore options to utilize mental health on Police calls. The goal should be in concert with the police and they are in discussions with other municipalities to provide a social worker on police calls.

#7 Examine Zoning Codes to limit similar business by similar business. This will be deferred to the future.

#8 Establish Commissioners Scholarship Fund. The BOC will sell packets of seeds at Unity for Kindness Day to start the Scholarship fund to pay for underprivileged children to attend summer camp.

#9 See above

#10 See above

#11 See above

#12 Create updated Coffee with Commissioners event/activity. This will remain on the list for the BOC

#13 BOC to visit cultural community groups within our community. This will remain on the list for the BOC

#14 Focus on Infrastructure, Open Space, Traffic Calming. This will be evaluated during the 2023 budget process.

#15 Focus on Grant Acquisition. This is in process and will remain on the list.

#16 Combine EAC recommendations with those of the PC (once they review) for Green Space Infrastructure (GSI). This will remain on the list and possibly be combined with other goals.

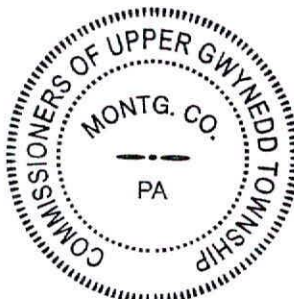
Mrs. Zadell will prioritize the list to be formally approved at the April 19th meeting.

Fred Hencken commented that he is concerned that we created a comprehensive plan based on a number of residents that responded to the surveys. Mrs. McNaney said the Comprehensive Plan wasn't just based on surveys. It was based on years of meetings and discussions, open houses and other outreach to the community.

Mr. Thompson said there is not a good statistical approach with our surveys and the responses won't reflect the responses of the majority. Mrs. Hull said we try to solicit resident feedback as much as possible in order to base our decisions on what the resident's want.

7. Call for Adjournment

Mrs. Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:57 pm



Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Brookley Zadell  
Secretary

**Approved May 24, 2022**