

**UPPER OXFORD TOWNSHIP
JANUARY 25, 2021**

Upper Oxford Township Board of Supervisors held an advertised work session at the Township Building, 1185 Limestone Road, Russellville, PA on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Scott A. Rugen
Howard S. Reyburn
Charles Fleischmann

Jane Daggett, Secretary
Colin Kraucunas, Planning Commission Member
Karl Herr, Dave Underwood, Lynn Robinson and Elizabeth Randolph, Planning Commission via teleconference.

The purpose of the work session was to discuss the proposed riparian buffer ordinance and the comments received regarding the draft ordinance from Chester County Planning Commission. New agriculture and existing agriculture were discussed in regards to the "Acre" complaints. Discussion was held regarding if we need definitions of agriculture – new. Charlie mentioned that we presently have multiple definitions, therefore is it feasible to change agricultural-new, to agricultural activity. Scott mentioned that this latest draft ordinance was already signed off by the Planning Commission and was sent to our solicitor, Tom Oeste for review and forwarded to Chester County Planning Commission for review.

Changes are as follows:

Agricultural Activity – will be left, as is.

Add:

Agricultural Activity, New – A lot or tract on which the owner or an applicant cannot demonstrate that Agricultural Activity has occurred continuously during the previous five (5) years

Non-native Invasive Vegetation. Any non-native plant species which aggressively displaces native plants. Also called "exotics" and "aliens," these species tend to reproduce prolifically and out-compete native plants for light, space, and nutrients, reducing plant diversity and wildlife habitat. Invasive vegetation includes but is not limited to the plant species listed in Appendix _____, List of Alien, Invasive Trees, shrubs, and Vines, of this Zoning ordinance.

Change:

Water Body. Any natural or manmade pond, lake, wetland, impoundment, or Watercourse. This shall not include any pond or facility designed and constructed solely to contain stormwater, or a swimming pool, or an isolated pond less than 10,000 square feet in size.

Section 1432. Riparian Buffer Protection

D. 2. Reduced buffer width for isolated wetlands and other Water Bodies. Wetlands and other Water Bodies not connected to shall have a minimum Riparian Buffer width of fifty (50) feet, measured from the edge of the wetland or other Water Body around the entire perimeter.

F.1. All Riparian Buffer areas shall be maintained pursuant to the provisions in Subsection F with a diverse mix of locally adapted native species of canopy trees, Understory trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants so as to constitute a Riparian Forest Buffer where not otherwise occupied by any existing use exempted in subsection C, or any authorized use permitted in subsection E.

F.5. For Wetlands and other Water Bodies not connected to a Watercourse, where the wetland or other Water Body is greater than ten thousand (10,000) square feet in area, the Applicant or owner shall fully restore the fifty (50) foot Riparian Buffer width.

Supervisor Rugen will contact Glenn Bentley at CCPC to give update and also check with Stephanie Armprister at Brandywine Conservancy for information regarding “invasive species”. An updated copy of the draft will be available to the Planning Commission for their February 1st meeting.

HISTORIC ORDINANCE – Scott informed the other that we are considering adding provisions in order to give the township more tools to protect historic structures.

AMISH SCHOOL – Scott was contacted by an Amish person inquiring if we approved the changes for the house capacity in the Amish Schools.

MARTIN PROPERTY – DEP informed the zoning officer that they are not taking any enforcement for Mr. Martin trying to alter the steam other than having him place barriers. Mr. Beers will inquire into this more thoroughly.

HIGH TUNNEL ORDINANCE – Still waiting for the State.

CELL TOWER – Is up and running.

JENNERSVILLE HOSPITAL – Tower Health is considering closing three hospitals, Jennersville being one, due to financial issues.

The Board of Supervisors thanked Colin Kraucunas for setting up the zoom meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Daggett
Secretary