

**GLEN OSBORNE BOROUGH
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2013
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of Glen Osborne Borough Planning Commission was held in the Osborne Elementary School on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. Dominic Munizza, Chairman of the Planning Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

The following individuals were in attendance at the meeting:

Planning Commission: Richard Carrier, Greg Curran, Dominic Munizza, John Orndorff

Officials: Secretary Diane Vierling, Council Vice President Barbara Carrier

Visitors: Jon Stilan, Environmental Planning & Design (EPD)
Susan Murray-Durbin 1432 Beaver Road

ROUTE 65/OHIO RIVER BOULEVARD CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Dominic Munizza stated this was the second meeting with Jon Stilan from Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) regarding the Route 65/Ohio River Boulevard Corridor Enhancement Plan for Glen Osborne.

Before beginning his slide presentation, Jon Stilan stated this project is fashioned after a similar Enhancement Plan that was completed by Sewickley and Edgeworth Boroughs. He proceeded with a review of his presentation from the November 6, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting: The scope of the Route 65/Ohio River Boulevard Corridor Enhancement Plan for Glen Osborne covers Route 65 from River Road to Boundary Street. The purpose of this project is to identify the best and most practical opportunities for enhancing the overall character and travel experience along the corridor while keeping in line with Sewickley's and Edgeworth's overall goal for the Corridor Enhancement Plan that EPD prepared for them. The ultimate goal is to jointly implement a plan in the spring with Sewickley and Edgeworth, and obtain funding (a grant) to proceed with the Route 65/Ohio River Boulevard Corridor Enhancement Plan.

At the November Planning Commission Meeting two focus areas were identified:

- Need for landscaping improvements along the sewer-interconnect area
- Safety and gateway treatments at the Route 65/Beaver/River Road intersection

During the slide presentation Mr. Stilan stated in the long-term picture there is potential for bike/pedestrian links and regional connectivity which are associated with the proposed "Ohio River Trail and North Shore Extension."

Jon Stilan reviewed recommendations for improving area along the railroad side of the corridor by planting native trees, and small flowering trees such as Eastern redbuds, and native flood-

plain species such as black locust and black cherry. Since this would be along railroad property, it would be necessary to coordinate this with the railroad.

Recommendations along the sewer-interconnect area included planting additional Eastern redbuds, white spruce and chewings fescue.

Recommendations along the rip rap area included planting trumpet honeysuckle which is a native plant and a rapid grower that would carpet the area. At the top of the slope area plant white spruce to help buffer sound, and seed the ground with chewings fescue.

Another alternative along the sewer-interconnect rip rap area included planting white spruce, perennial wildflowers and native grasses that are salt-tolerant and can deal with rugged conditions. The rip rap would have to be broken apart and top soil would have to spread before seeding.

Jon Stilan reviewed the dangerous conditions at the Route 65/Beaver/River/Water Street intersection. School busses do not cross the railroad tracks because of the lack of space and the lay-out of the railroad tracks. Thus, children are forced to walk across this dangerous intersection. Recommended improvements included: painting crosswalks with PennDOT standard “piano key” marking bars; designate pedestrian route across the railroad tracks with painted markings; consider a bus shelter at the current bus stop.

Mr. Stilan referred to the intersection at Route 65/Beaver/River Road as the “Gateway to Glen Osborne” and suggested various types of gateway signage and gateway arches. Jon Stilan also suggested planting various plants such as juniper, Meidiland rose, and red switch grass (which are tolerant to harsh conditions and salt) along the PennDOT wall and within the concrete island. Various wall restoration treatments were also reviewed. Repairing the PennDOT wall was recommended before any other treatment takes place. Treating the block wall with weed killer was suggested.

The priority projects were identified:

- Safety: crosswalks Route 65/Beaver/River/Water Street; bus shelter/area
- Enhancement of the sewer-interconnect area; rip rap area

Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) will prepare a report, reviewing what was discussed and recommended at the November and December meetings, submitting costs, and suggesting potential funding sources that Glen Osborne can look at individually and jointly with Sewickley and Edgeworth. EPD plans to submit this report to the Planning Commission for review and finalization so that the Planning Commission can provide a recommendation to Glen Osborne

Council to the January 21, 2014 Council meeting. The goal is to have a resolution adopted at the January Council meeting. The resolution would state, "The Borough acknowledges and accepts the plan and will make a good faith effort to attempt to achieve the recommendations that were outlined." According to Jon Stilan EPD's report should be available to the Planning Commission before Christmas, so that the Planning Commission will have time to review it before the next Planning Commission meeting on January 8, 2014.

Mr. Stilan recommended that once the resolution is adopted, Glen Osborne should contact Sewickley and Edgeworth to schedule a meeting in February to discuss the grant preparation strategy. EPD is not under contract to prepare the grant. Instead of attending the next Planning Commission meeting, Jon Stilan suggested that he (EPD) attend the meeting with Sewickley and Edgeworth in February. He also suggested that Glen Osborne contact Allegheny County to identify potential CITF (County Infrastructure and Tourism Fund) opportunities which can double as a match for a DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) grant. (DCNR grants are due in early April 2014.) He also recommended that Glen Osborne contact local, county and state groups/representatives to garner letters of support.

Jon Stilan explained that the process for the Route 65/Ohio River Boulevard Corridor Enhancement Plan began five years ago, when Edgeworth championed the plan. Last year Edgeworth and Sewickley got together and "Edgeworth" was the applicant for the grant. Going forward, it is understood that "Edgeworth" would be the name on the application, and it would be a joint community application. Borough Managers Marty McDaniel (Edgeworth) and Kevin Flannery (Sewickley) represented their boroughs with the project. Mayor-elect Barbara Carrier agreed to represent Glen Osborne.

Resident Susan Murray-Durbin, 1432 Beaver Road, reported that she met with Kevin Flannery and John Mowry (KLH Engineers) and reviewed her contract as a property owner along the sewer-interconnect area. Sewickley contacted the contractor, Petrakis, and had hemlock trees and rhododendrons planted around the redbud trees along the sewer-interconnect area. She is responsible for caring for the trees and rhododendrons.

John Orndorff suggested inviting the residents who live along the sewer inter-connect area to our next Planning Commission meeting on January 8, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Richard Carrier, seconded by John Orndorff, the Board voted 4 – 0 to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.