

New Hope Borough

February 16, 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

Council President Gering called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Council Members, Connie Gering, Dan Dougherty, Tina Rettig, Laurie McHugh, Ken Maisel, Louise Feder, Peter Meyer. Also present were Solicitor Tim Duffy, Engineer Michelle Fountain, Zoning Officer Tracy Tackett, and Borough Manager Peter Gray.

Absent: Mayor Keller

Visitor Center Presentation

Ms. Gering – Thank you. First on the agenda is the Presentation of the Visitor Center Marketing Application. Laurie McHugh is in charge of this. **Ms. McHugh** – Pete, is Tommy on? **Mr. Gray** – Yes. Tom, if you could unmute yourself. **Tom** – Hi Everybody. **Ms. McHugh** – Tommy is from Landmark Marketing and he has developed an app called New Hope App, which is a listing of all the businesses in the Borough that he is offering as a free service and he's here to present it to us tonight. Tommy, you have the floor. **Tom** – Thank you, Laurie, you did a great job of queuing that up. I'll try to keep it pretty brief, but Laurie did a great job. I'm from Landmark Entertainment, Landmark Marketing. What we do is, my responsibility is Chief Experience Officer. I build out all of the experiential products that we have within our suite. What we're looking to do is really work with New Hope to promote all the great town, all the great businesses that are going on and really promote it as an Art Community. What we did is we build a progressive web-app. What that is, is the new technology has come out is the apps don't have to be in the App Store to be able to access it. That seems to be one of the major hurdles or major milestones we've seen in people in tourism applications, that they won't take the time to download the app. So this functions as both an application and also a website. And what we'll be able to do is, everyone will be able to promote their information for free on there, it's geo-located, so as you move around the town it will show you what's available. As you click through the different businesses, the businesses can have the opportunity to have calls to action on there, so whether it's to buy tickets or to make a reservation or to call or get directions. So, it's really just a free resource to find out the best and brightest of things going on in and around New Hope. **Ms. McHugh** – It's an amazing App and you can look at it under---it's real simple, it's just called NewHopeApp.com. **Tom** – We have it at NewHopeApp.com and we can have it be any URL that we want it to be. And one other thing, if you want to check it out, if you go to NewHopeApp.com/partners and Laurie can circulate the information after the meeting, on that page, you'll actually see where you can submit your own business listing. So you can take photos right from your phone, put in the information, description, and upload them. Our team here will format it and make sure that everything looks proper and it will give everybody in the community a digital presence, which we know, in these times, is extremely important. **Mr. Meyer** – Tommy, that's fantastic. Quick question: Laurie to you, as well as to Tommy. How are we publicizing this to the businesses in town? **Ms. Gering** – Laurie can answer that question for you. **Ms. McHugh** – We haven't yet, but we're going to do a push. We can put it out through the Visitor Center facebook page and also email to all the businesses. We have an email list from when we did the New Hope Zoom meetings. **Mr. Meyer** – Can't hear you. **Ms. Gering** – I'll answer that. What the goal is, is to run this through the Visitor Center and do it as an added value for all the merchants in town. So we will have a....there's a facebook page that the Visitor Center has that we're just taking back from the Playhouse. We're going to add a page to our website that we have, that the Borough has. So this way the Visitor Center will become the center where we can help promote all the businesses in town through this app and it's going to be free to everyone. So they can't complain that there's a charge for it. **Mr. Meyer** – May I ask a dumb question? **Ms. Gering** – There's no such thing as a dumb question. **Mr. Meyer** – The businesses that have paid a Business Privilege Tax, do we have their emails

or are they on a list for this. **Ms. Gering** – We have all that. What we’re going to do is, what Laurie and I talked about when we met is doing a Zoom call for all the businesses and have it introduced to them about what will be available. So we wanted to make sure that Council saw this first and had questions answered before we move forward to doing anything with the Visitor Center. **Mr. Meyer** – Sounds fantastic to me. **Mr. Maisel** – I have a question. Will the content that a retail operation would want to upload, how is that curated? Is that whatever what they want to put on there free game? You say you’re going to edit it and make it look like it’s presentable, has a certain cohesiveness. How is that really going to play out, depending on the language that’s used and I don’t mean in terms of being foul language, but are you looking to articulate something consistently or everyone is going to be able to have their own voice? **Tom** – That’s a very good question. I think that we’re looking to articulate something consistently and put everyone on the same page. So the form that they actually fill out, they’re guided through, you know, keep it to this many words, give us one main photo, ... then what my team will do is we’ll go in and check it for grammatical errors, make sure all the links are correct, phone numbers are correct, just in case there was any typos and then, in some instances the photos that we get are not always of the best quality. So our team will go out and we’ll look on Facebook or Instagram or anywhere else we can find a photo that we may be able to use for them and suggest that. In some instances, too, we may even go back to them and say, hey maybe you use your phone and take a shot of this...so, we’ll provide guidance also. The goal is to really provide a consistent playing field and to provide all the visitors of New Hope a one-stop glance to be able to know exactly where everything is. **Mr. Maisel** – thank you. That’s very good. **Ms. Gering** – Louise? **Ms. Feder** – It’s very exciting to have an app for the town and it’s just so nice that you’re offering them this service. Images are something that I am curious about. I am looking at the app page right now and under “Shop” it’s ... I mean I looked at this before and mentioned this to somebody on an email chain at some point. We’re showing an interior shot of the Michener Art Museum, which is in Doylestown, showing museum pieces under buying things in town and I think I can understand that mistakes like that might happen, but it seems to be an issue that I’m curious about and, it’s not a criticism, I’m just curious. If we’re having an app for the town and we’re just cherry picking images from online, I think being a little bit more mindful than just finding an image on Facebook and Instagram might make sense. The only reason I’m intimately familiar with that is I know the photographer who took it and I know that space pretty well and I’m pretty confident that the museum would not be pleased with using images like that for marketing for something completely different. So, I think it’s a wonderful concept, but I think it’s something to be mindful of as we look to rollout where I think the images really need to be vetted a little bit more carefully. Just view the image rights and to that end I just being extra sure that the contents showing up being equally well vetted. Is this something that the town is able to edit, as well, or is this something that Landmark is doing on their own. **Tommy** – We totally want input from the town as far as making sure we have the right locations, the right photographs in there, there the right descriptions. So that it really captures the town itself. You are totally correct with the image usage and the image rights. Actually, we’re on the New Jersey Guide also, it’s an app in the New Jersey app store. So we do this with thousands of locations across New Jersey. But we make sure we have the right rights and everything. In the app itself, the state it’s in right now is more of like a demo phase. So, I definitely want you to point out anything like that that’s obvious. We want to say that that shouldn’t be in there, because you guys know the town intimately, more than I do. I hope to learn it as much as you guys do, but we want input as much as possible. And we can even, if we wanted to, give somebody there access to update the event calendar, to be able to have admin access to oversee everything or curate everything, if you wanted to provide that. **Ms. Feder** - I think that would be wise. I mean, I think if we’re doing some things. I think that if we’re doing a app that is supposed to be representative of the town and is run out of the Visitor Center, while it is an amazing service that you’re providing, if it’s going to be the front face of the town, it would make sense to have the town have admin access at a bare minimum just to make sure that complaints and some images, and I know you said it’s a demo phase, so I know I’m scrolling down and there’s also picture of New Jersey, Lambertville in the front page, so I just think it’s something we need, I know it’s a demo, but going forward, I think making sure that have editing access and making sure that the images are really carefully vetted. **Tommy** – Not a problem and, actually beyond that, I’ll take that even a step further. I would love to get from the team ideas that you would like to see as far as far as articles or features about the town that could be included in here, as well. So whether it be a famous artist from the town or an exhibit or some type of history from the town

that you want to communicate with everybody. I think this is another great place to do that, as well. So in addition to having a listing for events and locations, we have the capability to have a feature spot. So if we wanted to promote thorough articles or content we could do that. **Ms. Gering** – This is just for you guys to see what the app does and ask Tommy some questions. Louise your feedback is really crucial and Laurie and I talked about pulling you in to help with the Visitor's center. Just as I'm putting pressure on you to volunteer. But this is just for Council to get the feel for it and know what's happening. We will fine tune it as we move forward. I don't think tonight's the night to have that discussion. I mean, if Council wants to have more input, we can maybe do that in a workshop once we get things rolling or just an open information so you can see what it is. But tonight is just so you know what they're doing. What our vision is for the Visitor Center to try to get it off and to offer a service for the merchants in town. It will be a win, win situation. **Ms. Feder** – That certainly makes perfect sense and I'm happy to be volunteer onto the committee. That's great. For clarification before we move on, who is controlling the content, just broadly speaking and then when was the plan for rolling it out? **Ms. Gering** – There's two things. We haven't done that because we wanted Council to see this first. Laurie and I have been working behind the scenes. We just got back our Facebook page for the Visitor Center that was still part of the Playhouse. We're working on other aspects. I think we need to bring them back in-house, so they're controlled by the Borough and then we can launch things. We're not quite in that position yet. **Ms. McHugh** – This is just a demo. That's all this is. It hasn't been...it's not public access yet, it's just for demo purposes only. **Ms. Feder** – But the URL is live, correct? **Ms. McHugh** – But it hasn't been publicized. **Tommy** – It is. But it's just for access for everybody but I'll pull it down. It's not getting seated by the search engines or anything. So you don't have to worry about it getting picked up from that perspective. So we'll be ok. But I definitely welcome, I think one last thing, it is an iterative process. So once we do start launching, I do welcome all the feedback. Because the more feedback and the more interaction we get the more adoption we'll get. And it's very exciting, because, like I said they just released NFC on the phone. That's Nearfield Communication. So people can literally tap things and get information on their phone in addition to QR code. So perfect timing for all this to launch. I'm excited to meet all of you and excited to work with all of you. Don't want to hijack the meeting. Thank you very much for the introduction, Laurie and Connie. I don't know if you want me to stay or if you want me to bale. I can do whatever you want. **Ms. Gering** – Is there any other questions? Thank you so much, Tommy. We appreciate your time. We'll keep the conversation going. Laurie will be in touch with you.

Ms. Gering – Next on the list is the consideration for amending the Waiver of Land Development for McDonald's. It's 324 West Bridge Street. Can I have a motion for approval? **Ms. McHugh** – I'll make that motion. **Mr. Meyer** – Second. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. So, is anyone here from McDonald's to do the presentation? **Mr. Gray** – Yes. There are several representatives. Mr. Ed Mack, Ms. Melissa Bean and Mary Bachert from Bohler and if you could unmute yourself. **Mr. Mack** – Good Evening. My name is Ed Mack. I am the area construction manager for McDonald's Corporation and the project manager for this major remodel program. I'm going to hand it off to Melissa Bean and her team from Bohler to get a little more detail of how I think we came up with a good solution and design for the trash coral placement. Melissa, if you could pick it up from here. **Ms. Bean** – Sure, Ed. Thank you. As we have discussed with your group, McDonald's is proposing to demolish the existing trash enclosure area and to construct a new trash enclosure area that is open air with the doors facing away from Bridge Street. In addition, we do have an ADA ramp across the front of the building and the escape lane from the drive-thru will have to be widened to be able to incorporate the change to the trash enclosure. Now we are proposing landscape to screen the trash enclosure walls and there will be a new sidewalk path for delivery. **Ms. Gering** – Any questions from Council? **Mr. Went** – Members of City Council, my name is Ray Wentz. I'm sorry, my camera wasn't connected for some reason. I am the attorney for McDonald's Corporation. Just so we're clear, we're here to get an amendment to a previous waiver that was already granted. **Ms. Gering** – That is correct, Ray. **Ms. Gering** – Any questions form Council. This was discussed before at the workshop. Any questions from the public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. **Ms. Gering** – Alright, we're going to take a vote. All in favor? **All** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Opposed? **Ms. Feder** – I have to abstain, but not opposed. **Ms. Gering** – Alright, your motion passes. Best of luck. I know you've done a lot of work to make this happen. **Mr. Mack** – thank you so much.

Ms. Gering – Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness for 46 North Main Street. They have put on decorative wrought iron fencing on the second floor. Can I have a motion for approval? **Ms. McHugh** – I'll make that motion. **Mr. Meyer** – Second. **Ms. Gering** – Any questions for discussion from Council? Any questions from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. **Ms. Gering** – All in favor. **All**, less Mr. Maisel - Aye **Mr. Maisel** – abstain. **Ms. Gering** – Ken, you abstain. Motion passes.

Ms. Gering – Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness for 82 South Main Street for re-siding, painting and replacement of the lights. Can I have a motion for approval? **Ms. Feder** – I'll make the motion. **Ms. Rettig** – I'll second. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Any questions for discussion from Council? Any from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. All in favor? **All** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Opposed? Motion passes.

Ms. Gering – We had 49 West Mechanic Street. That has been moved to the March agenda due to lack of information. I'm sorry. 49 West Mechanic Street.

Ms. Gering – Next is consideration for a resolution for the 2021 Fee Schedule. This was discussed extensively at our workshop. Can I have a motion for approval? **Mr. Maisel** – I'll make that motion. **Ms. McHugh** – I'll second. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Any questions for discussion from Council? Any questions from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. **Ms. Gering** - All in favor? **All** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Opposed? Motion passes. Thank you.

Ms. Gering – Next is consideration for a resolution for Verizon Cable agreement with New Hope Borough. Can I have a motion for approval? **Ms. McHugh** – I'll make that motion. **Ms. Rettig** – Second. **Ms. Gering** - Pete, if can you give the information on this. **Mr. Gray** – Certainly, Thank you. Cohen Law Group, presenting New Hope Borough, through the Bucks County Consortium has reached an agreement with Verizon on a Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement. This new agreement allows New Hope to assess a franchise up to 5% of Verizon's gross revenue receipts for cable services within the Borough. This 5% is the same rate as in the existing Verizon agreement. The length of the agreement is five years and requires advance notice if Verizon decides to terminate its cable services. A Resolution has been prepared for consideration by Council to approve this agreement. **Ms. Gering** – Any discussion from Council? Any questions from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. **Ms. Gering** - All in favor? **All** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Opposed? Motion passes. Thank you.

Ms. Gering – Next is consideration for escrow release for 18-20 West Mechanic Street in the amount of \$44,353 and that's also contingent upon outstanding invoices all being paid. Can I have a motion for approval? **Mr. Maisel** – I'll make that motion. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Second? **Ms. McHugh** – I'll second. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Any discussion from Council? Any questions from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands are raised. **Ms. Gering** - All in favor? **All** – Aye Thank you. Motion passes.

Ms. Gering – Next is consideration for sale of surplus vehicle. It's for the 2004 Crown Victoria in the amount of \$1,675. Can I have a motion for approval? **Ms. Rettig** – I will make that motion. **Ms. McHugh** – Second. **Mr. Meyer** – I can't believe we're getting that for a car that's 16 years old. That's pretty good. **Ms. McHugh** – I was impressed! Any discussion from Council? Any questions from the public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands. **Ms. Gering** - All in favor? **All** – Aye Thank you. Motion passes. I think that was a really good deal that we got.

Ms. Gering – Next is approval of our minutes from the January 19, 2021 Council meeting and February 1, 2021 Council workshop. Can I have a motion for approval? **Mr. Meyer** – So moved. **Ms. Gering** – Second? **Ms. McHugh** – I'll second. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Any discussion from Council? Any from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – No hands. **Ms. Gering** - All in favor? **All** – Aye Thank you.

Ms. Gering – Next is Accounts Payable approval. We have accounts payable for January in the amount of \$188,164.45. Payroll for January 29th and February 12th in the amount of \$70,461.97 and \$68,884.15. Can I have a motion for approval. **Ms. Rettig** – I'll make that motion. **Mr. Dougherty** – Second. Thank you. Any questions from

Council? Any questions from the Public? **Mr. Gray** – Yes, there is one hand. Mr. Bill Clapper. **Ms. Gering** – Yes. **Mr. Gray** – Mr. Clapper, if you could unmute yourself. **Mr. Clapper** – I thought at the last meeting when Dan Dougherty talked about the new roll of the Financial Committee to take more of an oversight role. **Ms. Gering** – Mr. Clapper, can I stop you. What we're doing on this motion is approving the Accounts Payable for payroll and the bills paid. **Mr. Clapper** – But I'm getting that Connie is that the problem with looking at this as a resident of the payable is we have no context. We have no context and I think the context is provided if we had financial reporting to go along with this. And I'm here to ask the Council to consider releasing regular financial reports. Monthly reports that we can provide context about the financial management that's taking place. That's not to question anything, just to understand it. Please understand that. I'm thinking in terms of we ought to see how that compares, the Accounts Payable compares to the budget forecast. We ought to see how that stacks up within an income expense statement and, certainly a balance sheet that we ought to be able to see how the town is...how the health of the town is doing financially. So, while I know this is a particular accounts payable issue, I think you'll see how this all fits in. Just approving the numbers doesn't provide any context. So, I'd like to have you think about that. I've made this request for over three months, now and prefer that you'd bring that forward. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you, Bill. We'll have to take that into discussion with the Finance Committee and see what, legally, we can put up there. Payroll is set, so I don't see how that's going to change. But maybe we can provide some other information to give you a comfort zone. **Mr. Clapper** – I'm not talking about details. This dollar for that dollar, but even perhaps by high account level. So we see this classification has been budgeted for X dollars even though there may be twenty components to that, we only need to see the high level of what they are. Just to provide context to the expenditure. I think that's just prudent financial management. You would see that in any public company. I don't think it's an unreasonable request. **Ms. Gering** – Bill, I think we're going to have to have further discussion. We're just trying to get this approved. I think what you're requesting is going to take time for our Treasurer to start putting those reports and that's going to have to be a discussion, the time it would take and do we have to pay overtime for someone to do this that's not normally budgeted time. So we will get back to you. Mr. Pete Gray has your contact information. I'm not brushing you off, but we'll see what we can do and I'll have him reach out to you. **Mr. Clapper** – Ok. I'll look for Peter's call, then. **Ms. Gering** – Alright, Thank you. We have a motion on the table. All in favor? And this is Accounts Payable. **All** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Motion passes.

Ms. Gering – Next we have reports. Park and Rec? **Ms. Feder** – We didn't have a meeting last month. We had a number of members that were travelling, but we look forward to meeting again, likely in March. **Ms. Gering** - Thank you, Louise. Shade Tree? **Ms. McHugh** – Shade Tree I have nothing to report, but we do have a meeting tomorrow night. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Finance Committee, Mr. Dougherty. **Mr. Dougherty** – We were unable to meet last month, due to personal issues, but we plan to meet later this month and we will, at that time, use the opportunity, from an oversight perspective, to figure out how best to address the constituent, Bill's, request for information. Some grounding information and Year to Date information, at least the ledger level. You can expect an update on that on the next Council meeting. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you, Dan. Planning Commission. **Mr. Meyer** – That's me. You'll see the product of our Planning Commission meeting at your next workshop meeting, where we have a series of revisions for the Zoning Ordinance that we are proposing. Tracy, do you need to add anything to what I just said? **Ms. Tackett** – Nope, I think that's it. We should be bringing to you, I think it's four proposed updates to the Zoning Ordinance and the County Planner is starting from the beginning of the Zoning Ordinance and working with the Planning Commission to look through and make sure that everything looks good and update. **Mr. Meyer** – We're there. That is something which is ongoing, but there are four very specific elements to consider at the next workshop meeting. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. HARB, Ken. **Mr. Maisel** – Louise, JoAnn and I have been working on a first iteration of a streamline application. Our understanding of the HARB application process. We expect to bring something to the workshop next month and get some additional direction from you guys. Get your feedback. But we're exciting about giving it a more streamline look. Louise, would you add anything to that? **Ms. Feder** – We're looking forward to talking about it in March, but just one more thanks to JoAnn. She went through a whole bunch of back agendas for HARB and that was really helpful and we're looking forward to talking more about it in March. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you. Alright. Do we have a Manager's report? **Mr. Gray** – Yes, one item tonight. The Borough received a letter from the Delaware River Greenway Partnership on

February 8th, regarding the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic River Management Council. This group has quarterly meetings and meetings are held virtually for an hour and a half. Municipal representatives from the corridor work together with State and Federal representatives on this Council. This group allocates Federal funds and makes decisions regarding projects to pursue. Representatives are also a critical information link between this Council and the town, providing information about town needs and concerns to this Council and, similarly, bringing information back to their town. This group has asked if any Council members from the Borough may be interested in participating on this Wild and Scenic River Management Council. **Ms. Gering** – Pete, what is the length of the appointment on there? **Mr. Gray** – They do not say. I could find that out at a later time, but I do not have that right now. **Ms. Gering** – Well, I'd like to nominate Louise for that position, if she'd like to accept it, even though we don't know what the length is. **Ms. Feder** – Well, I'm happy to do it. **Mr. Meyer / Ms. Gering** – It's four meetings a year. **Ms. Feder** – I can do that, for sure! So, I think it's a nice tie in to Parks and Rec. I think that would be really fun. If you want to Pete, we can do it for a year. Do we have to put a length of time in the minutes? We can do it for a year and then revisit it at the reorganization meeting next year? Does that make sense or does it not matter? **Mr. Gray** – That's fine. They do say Quarterly meetings, so maybe four meetings a year for one calendar year? **Ms. Feder** – Sounds good. Unless anyone else really wants to do it. **Ms. Gering** – Ok. We have a motion on the table. Can I have a Second? **Mr. Meyer** – Second. **Ms. Gering** – All in favor of Louise taking this position? **ALL** – Aye. **Ms. Gering** – Opposed? Louise, Congratulations! **Ms. Feder** – Thanks so much. I'm looking forward to it. I'll report back. **Ms. Gering** – Do we have a Solicitor's report? **Mr. Tim Duffy** – I have nothing to report tonight.

Ms. Gering – Thank you. Do we have any Public comments? **Mr. Gray** – Yes, we do have several hands raised. First, Ms. Stacy Endress. **Ms. Endress** – Hi, can you hear me? I'm Stacy Endress. 25 Chestnut Street, in the Borough. I wanted to ask a question about parking and snow removal. We're on Chestnut Street and it is, as you all know, just piled with snow mounds, so a lot of the parking spots are filled and, with the change in Ferry Street parking rules, it's sending all of the Ferry Street people up here and parking is at a minimum. So, I have two questions, One, is it possible, I mean today would have been the ideal day with the higher temperatures, but to get some of the snow removed, so that there's more spaces and then my other question is, and I'm not sure if I should address it to you guys or if I should take it to the Police Department. Is it possible to suspend the Ferry Street parking rules when we have extenuating snow circumstances like this? Because that way they can just park on their street until the snow is gone and the spaces free up. Because right now some of the free spaces are in areas where you're not allowed to park. So, it's just creating a lot of frustration for residents that park up here. **Ms. Gering** – I think that's a good point. Pete, why don't you look into that and we'll see what we can do. Yes, that's a concern with no place to park. **Mr. Dougherty** – Pete, I think I support Stacy's perspective on...Right now on Ferry Street, that's where my house is. There's no place to put the snow, so I'm not saying that they didn't remove the snow properly, but we may actually have to take the snow away, because the Ferry Street people, you can't park along Ferry right now, very well at all, because the snow extends into the street and it's a two-way street, so it's pretty precarious there. So, I think a secondary thing we should probably take a look at also, the point between Bridge and Ferry, there's a very large mound of snow, which makes anyone trying to make a right ... come out of there. As a dangerous intersection as it already had been, coming out of Ferry to go to Bridge, whether making a right or trying to make a left, it's pretty tough right now because there's a mound of snow about the height of a car on that corner. So, I think that whole little region there has to be...if we're going to be getting more snow Thursday, I think something's going to have to be done before April, when all this melts. It seems like it's going to be around for a very long time. So, just my two cents, as a resident. **Mr. Meyer** – Then maybe it's a public works issue, is that it? **Ms. Gering** – Yes. I think Pete's going to have to deal with Public Works and address this. **Mr. Maisel** – Connie, somebody has commented online, they did remove snow from Ferry Street today. So, somebody did something today, according to this. I do think that Dan's point is a good one. That's a murderous spot right there with that snow built up and then we're just adding and adding to it. Thursday is going to be another bad day, so I think, maybe Tom's intensity can be raised. If that's even possible.....that's because he has a high intensity level to start with, that was a denigrating comment. It was complimentary! **Ms. Gering** – Thanks, Ken. Pete, Kelly Whitman had her hand raised. She wanted to make a comment. **Mr. Gray** – Yes. **Ms.**

Whitman – Hi, I do live on West Ferry and I was going to say that they have been out today, removing some of the snow, which is great, but it's been a week and a few parking tickets since then. So, this is kind of a broader comment, obviously having West Ferry parking restrictions lifted during a snow event would be helpful. Even before this I was getting a lot of comments from like five different people on the street stop me to talk about this. West Ferry or West Bridge, as well, about the parking regulation change. I know there was the raising fees back in November or so, which I actually support. I think we do need to bring the level in line, however it's really made things much more problematic for a lot of the people who live on the street. So this is just parking in front of my own house. And I'm talking with some older residents who now have to park down on Chestnut and walk three blocks with their groceries in the dark on icy streets, when there are completely empty streets in front of our houses. So, it would be great if because of the new raise in parking fees, it costs \$10 to park even with the resident permit it stops at 3pm to cover that time, it's ten bucks a day. The parking enforcement philosophy seems to have changed. But they used to kind of know the resident's cars and leave them alone in the evenings and leave them alone and now, that's not the case. If it's possible to consider, for Council to consider or the Parking Commission a bit more of a beefed up resident program for the people that live on the street. I think that that would be very helpful to help offset some of that impact, would be very welcome. I just ask that Council consider the impact. People just want to park in front of their own houses. We understand. We live in town. We know that it's not always going to get a spot in front of your house. Trust me. We know and get that. It concerns, when there's an entirely empty street and you're still having to walk in the dark for three blocks to avoid getting a \$35 ticket. That's all I'll say. Thank you so much and it was great to have them clear all the spaces. With more snow coming, I know it's going to be an issue. Thank you. **Ms. Gering** – Thank you, Kelley. Pete, anyone else have their hand raised. **Mr. Gray** – Yes, Mr. Duffy. **Ms. Gering** – I was worried, Ed, that you weren't coming on. **Mr. Duffy** – I just wanted to say hello to Tim. No, actually, glad to have a Duffy on the screen! Just one quick question, the parking garage thing. I'm surprised there wasn't any kind of comment on this agenda. Should you guys be updating the public every Council meeting as to where it's no, where it's not going or it's the same thing? That type of thing? **Ms. Gering** – Ed, I'm going to give you a brief summary. We haven't moved that far. We just got the letter of agreement from the State. Pete and myself had a meeting with Steve Santarsiero's office on Friday to discuss the 600-page application that's going to come and we're going to start meeting with them on a monthly basis. But, until then, there's really nothing to report, other than we got the grant. We got the letter....is it called commitment, I'm not even sure, Pete. That was the process, too. **Mr. Duffy** – Connie, what you just said is not nothing. That's new information. So, every month you can say it's the same status or nothing is changed. That way, the rumors are all over the place with the residents and the merchants. So, it's better to make some type of comment. I thought that was a very great comment that you just made. **Ms. Gering** – Well, thank you, Ed. Now you can share that at Starbucks. **Mr. Duffy** – No, you should share it with the community. **Ms. Gering** – Thanks, Ed. Any other questions? **Mr. Gray** – We do have Mr. Clapper, again, to speak. **Mr. Clapper** – I just want to back up what Ed just said. We do like feedback into the community. And, Connie, in your letter, where you announce this a few weeks ago and in the Newsletter, you were going to solicit support from the community in the planning stages. I just want to hope that you're going to stick to that, so that those of us who may have some ideas to contribute, can get on the table. **Ms. Gering** – when we get to that position, we'll definitely make it public. **Mr. Clapper** – Ok, not a "here's what we want to do," but rather wide open, a blank sheet at this point. Ok? **Mr. Clapper** – I hear you. Thank you. **Mr. Gray** – There's another hand raised. Mr. Dave Hansel. **Mr. Hansel** – Hello. I've lived in Kiltie Drive for 17 years. It's my first time being at a Borough Council meeting, although I retired from the school district after 20 years, so I have had ties with the Borough and with the school district. I wanted to say that the opening segment there with Landmark Marketing, I find that very interesting. It's something that I hope that it's something that the Borough's going to entertain. I'm also the President of the New Hope Solebury Community Association and I can see how things we may do could help be publicized in local publications like that. I think that's a really great thing. I was online and actually trying the app, as the gentlemen was speaking and it looks pretty cool, actually. Thank you for that. Also, the gentleman who talked about the financial reporting. Being from the School District all those years, we had a financial fiscal dashboard that was made available to the public all the time, as well as monthly updates at all the Board meetings, both hard copy and now online, of course. So, those type of reporting systems are available and I find it odd that you don't have those types of

reporting for your business. And lastly, I understand the school district is going to be doing some construction work on campus and I'm wondering....I saw you approved a fee schedule. Was part of that fees schedule to do with permit fees and things like that? **Mr. Gering** – Dave, I'm going to answer your question because Ed Duffy called me this evening, prior to the meeting. And he had concerns. I understand the school district wants to come and discuss fees for them. I told him that that needs to be sent in writing for our Borough Manager and, as a consideration for the School District and it would be a totally different item. The fees that we approved tonight, some fees in the Borough hadn't been approved in ten to twelve years. So the Borough actually wasn't even revenue-neutral. It was costing us more to perform the services than we were making. But that's what was approved. So we're comparable to the other towns and it was researched by our Zoning Officer and our Engineering and whoever else was involved from the staff. But I know what that is. Ed approached me tonight and I told him to submit it in writing to Pete Gray and it will have to be addressed by Council, but they're two different animals. It's not the same thing. **Mr. Hansel** – Ok. Thank you very much. I appreciate your understanding. **Ms. Gering** – Thanks, Dave. Anyone else have their hand raised? **Mr. Gray** – Mr. Clapper, Ms. Endress and Ms. Whitman do have their hands raised, but I'm not sure if they still would like to speak. Mr. Clapper is the only one left and Mr. Clapper, if you could unmute yourself. **Mr. Clapper** – I would I just like to let everyone know how positive I think this Zoom conference is as a method to communicate to the community and I hope that you'll give consideration to continue this method long after we're past the COVID issues. Thank you. **Mr. Gray** – There are no other hands raised at this time.

Ms. Gering – Alright. Thank you. Do we have any announcements? If not, can I have a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Meyer / Ms. Rettig – Moved / Second. **Ms. Gering** – All in favor? **ALL** – Aye **Ms. Gering** – Nice seeing everybody. Have fun in the snow on Thursday. Be careful everyone. Goodbye!