

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



Newsletter of the Pa. Association of Zoning Officials

March 2022

Latest News

TOMORROW: PSATS Is Offering “Fundamentals of Zoning” Class for Township Supervisors and Staff

On March 22, PSATS will be hosting a virtual class aimed at supervisors and others looking for a basic understanding of the “how and why” of zoning. Please encourage any township officials or staff who may benefit from this class to register. More information is in the Educational Opportunities section below.

Tomorrowland: Disney and the Residential Development Business

In a recent blog post — “Paging Mr. Morrow – Mr. Tom Morrow.” Is a Disney Community Coming to Your Municipality Soon? — Jon Andrews of McNeese Wallace & Nurick discusses Disney’s plans to design and develop a series of planned communities known as “Storyliving by Disney,” which will contain a mixture of residential, commercial, and recreational units. To learn more, click [here](#).

Need a Mentor? Or Looking to Become One?

PAAZO is still gauging interest from members about a possible mentoring program that will allow for mentoring relationships among zoning officials in different municipalities. If you have interest in becoming a mentor or being mentored, please contact Kathy Kronicz at kkronicz@psats.org.

Training Opportunities

Fundamentals of Zoning – The Why and How of Zoning – 3/22/22 (Virtual Class)

Supervisors who enact zoning ordinances must understand the purpose and function of zoning. This workshop explains why we have zoning, how we implement it, and the tools it affords townships to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare. The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all. We will discuss the legal roles of supervisors and others, zoning hearings (including conditional uses), and several other important aspects of zoning ordinances that are often overlooked or misunderstood.

Fair Housing Fundamentals for Townships – 3/30/22 (Webinar)

Learn from the fair housing team at the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) about practical steps that you can take to stay in compliance with fair housing laws and promote equitable housing opportunities within your municipality.

Active Transportation Planning in Rural Communities – 4/13/22 (Webinar)

The session will focus on planning in rural communities during the development of Westmoreland County's first rural active transportation Pplan. The Smithton Borough – Scottsdale Borough Active Transportation Plan was adopted in December 2020 and provides an excellent example of how planners, local officials, county and regional partnerships, nonprofits, institutional resources, and state agencies can collaborate on community engagement and planning efforts. Capacity building at the local level was vital to developing a plan that advanced active transportation priorities, projects, and initiatives within local budgetary parameters and that met local governmental expectations.

Active transportation planning in rural communities presents a specific set of challenges that must be understood and appropriately addressed by both professional planners and local municipal officials. The presenters will identify the specific challenges associated with planning in smaller rural municipalities, including budget constraints, limited staff capacities, educating officials on the value and benefits of local planning, and developing a participation process and communication plan that fits with local expectations. Relatable approaches for how these challenges were successfully overcome will be presented from a planner's and municipal officials' perspectives.

PAAZO Spring Educational Forum – 4/24/22 (In-Person Seminar)

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis and discusses effective strategies to address them. Specific agenda topics include ways to encourage controlled and collaborative development, housing, addressing resident complaints and short-term rentals, and best practices for ensuring proper written decisions under the MPC.

Legal Update

Lamar Loses Outdoor Sign Challenge

In *In re Appeal of The Lamar Co. (East Whiteland Twp.)*, No. 1308 C.D. 2020, 2022 WL 599151 (Pa.Cmwith. March 1, 2022), the Commonwealth Court affirmed that a township zoning hearing board properly denied Lamar's request for zoning relief so that it could put up a 300-square foot, 25-foot-tall outdoor sign in an office park. The court found that the township's zoning ordinance did not permit the ZHB to approve off-premises signs by special exception.

This monthly newsletter for members of the Pennsylvania Association of Zoning Officials focuses on news and matters of interest to zoning officials, lists upcoming training opportunities, and provides a snapshot of zoning-related legal decisions. To access past newsletters, log in at psats.org and choose the Newsroom tab. Email comments and suggestions to Managing Editor Brenda Wilt at bwilt@psats.org or PAAZO Program Manager Kathy Kronicz at kkronicz@psats.org.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

