

**HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026**

Board Members in Attendance: Dennis Hameister, Chair
Frank Harden, Vice Chair
Nigel Wilson
Tracey Moriarty
Chris Murrell

Staff in Attendance: Mark Boeckel, Township Manager
Todd Shea, Zoning/Ordinance Enforcement Officer
Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary – via Zoom

Public in Attendance: Roy M. Love, DC
Karen Conroy
Fred Dailey
Pam Schultz
Jeff Schultz
Matt Shaffer
Van Winter, Boalsburg Fire Chief
Robin Brouse
Debbie Shephard
Edie Binkley
Martin McGann
Bonnie Dailey
Fred Dailey
Andrew Yablonsky
Lyle Yablonsky
Lysa Holland
Jeff Downing
Valerie Thurnau
Jeff Grubb
John Sepp, PennTerra Engineering
Bob Potter
Linda Selego
Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor
Kate Reiber
Kelly Anderson
Jean Voigt
Patty Deveck
Diane Farr
Lynda Mussi
Virginia Hubbs

Lauren Tomasch
Stewart Gingerich
Nora Gingerich
Galen Dreibelbis

**Public in Attendance
via Zoom:**

Tonya Ochoa
Cathy Horner
Rusty Shackelford
Shane McGee

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hameister called the June 8, 2026 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the May 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Galen Dreibelbis said he is requesting that the Board put the short-term rental program back on their agenda. He said although this ordinance solved the problems in the residential areas, it has created another problem with properties are in the forest, natural and agricultural areas, i.e. camps, etc. that are not occupied 80 percent of the time. He said the ordinance is okay but is missing something badly.

Lyle Yablonsky thanked Mr. Dreibelbis for his generosity to the community and his leadership in this area. He said he recently purchased six acres where he plans to build a vacation home and eventually for retirement. He also has the same concerns as Mr. Dreibelbis regarding the short term rental issues and 80 percent occupancy. He said he appreciates the Board's time and the opportunity to discuss this further.

Chair Hameister thanked Mr. Dreibelbis and Mr. Yablonsky and said the Board will take this under advisement.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no new items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

- a. REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING ON ACADEMY STREET AND WEST MAIN STREET:

Mr. Boeckel provided background on the Township's efforts regarding traffic calming. He said in addition to Ms. Conroy and Dr. Love, the Township's Traffic Engineer, Rob Watts, is present at tonight's meeting to discuss traffic calming. The Board should discuss the request and provide feedback to Staff on how to proceed.

Karen Conroy from Academy Street gave a quick recap stating that about two years ago, she asked the Township to consider speed humps on this street. She said with new subdivisions, and Airbnb's, motorists tend to go fast on these straight-away streets. She said the other problem with Academy Street is that it is a very narrow street and there are no sidewalks. She said it is not the number of cars, it is the occasional speeders.

Dr. Roy Love from West Main Street said Boalsburg is a very special place and the residents are just trying to protect it. He said traffic calming would help protect this area. He said he felt confident residents would help fund speed humps if the issue is a financial one.

Rob Watts from McCormick Taylor said he has been the Township's traffic engineer for about 18 years. He said there is a systematic way to look at this issue and address it. He gave a brief PowerPoint presentation. He discussed equitable outcomes and indicators to determine if we need a traffic calming policy. He explained the four elements of what a traffic calming policy looks like. He said the three "Es" of traffic calming are education, enforcement and engineering. He noted College Township, Ferguson Township and State College Borough all have traffic calming policies. He explained the 85th percentile speed used in collecting data and analysis.

Lysa Holland of 235 Academy Street said the narrowness of the street and the lack of sidewalks need to be considered on this street.

Bob Cameron of 521 West Main Street said he has been contacting the police for over 20 years regarding speeding on this section of roadway and asking them to monitor vehicles. He said he also felt the monitors that have been put in place in the past were in the wrong locations.

Edie Binkley of 708 Boalsburg Pike said the Board agreed to lower the speed on this street to 25 mph however that didn't help. She said buses, parents, students, and delivery vehicles related to the school all speed on this street. She said something needs to be done.

Jean Voigt of Harris Avenue said she totally agreed with Ms. Binkley. She said the data previously gathered on this street was gathered at the bottom of the hill and that is not where the problem is. She said this is a dangerous situation.

Lynda Mussi of 121 West Main Street said there is speeding on this street every day. She said you can hear the vehicles speeding down this street. She said someone is going to get killed and something has to be done and done quick.

Kevin Anderson of West Crestview Avenue said school buses are the number one problem with speeding. He said sidewalks should also be approved especially in the area of the curve on West Main Street.

Janet Swim of 158 Roundhill Road said she is in favor of a traffic calming policy. but the policy should be for the entire Township and not just a few streets.

Robin Brouse said she agrees with Ms. Binkley and the residents appreciate what the Township did to lower the speed on the Pike, but it is just not working.

Fred Dailey of 570 South Academy Street said people are not using the sidewalks. He said Mr. Boeckel did contact the police about this and they will begin enforcement.

Lauren Tomasch said she is in support of traffic calming in the Township however, she is not a proponent of speed humps on West Main Street.

Kate Reiber of 538 West Main Street said she has lived in the Township for about five years. She said the reason they moved to this area is because it is so walkable and her kids can ride their bikes. She said the problem on West Main is where the road narrows. She said let's do this traffic calming and make a difference.

Martin McGann of Emma Court said Mr. Watts mentioned getting the stakeholders involved. He said he is sure Mr. Watts knows of other examples of options besides speed humps and perhaps the Board should ask him to provide some design options.

Dr. Love said traffic calming in College Township in the area above the golf course was successful and has cut down on the number of vehicles on that street.

Mr. Boeckel read an email from Susan Rattenbury and Steven Rosenberg from 241 South Academy Street who could not attend the meeting. They strongly support measures to slow down cars and trucks on Academy Street. They said vehicles routinely travel this street in excess of the speed limit. They said many of these vehicles are turning out of or into Springfield Commons. They said while their preference would be for traffic humps, reducing the speed limit on Academy to match Springfield Commons (15 mph) might also help.

Chair Hameister and Mr. Watts said they appreciated all the input from the residents. Mr. Watts said there are other options available and there are also grants for funding available; however, grants will take some time. He said the first thing the Board needs to do is decide if they want some type of criteria on paper as a policy.

Dr. Love said he brought this item up two years ago and he talked to Mr. Boeckel about it again a year ago. He said when nothing was being done, he asked for this item to be put on the agenda for discussion. He said the Township should not delay any longer. It is time to get this done.

Ms. Binkley said she has contacted the school district several times about bus 100 and nothing has changed.

Fred Dailey said it time for the Township to catch up and get on board with our neighbors on this policy. He said if you do what they did in Lemont to curb traffic, you are going to cut down on a lot of parking stalls.

The Board discussed the bike-ability and walkability of the Township. They said they understand the concerns of the citizens. They said we need to have a consistent policy and felt this could be done fairly quickly. They felt we need to be uniform on how we approach these requests. They also felt many of the violators of speed limits are residents of the neighborhoods. The Board noted there are better ways to solve this issue than speed humps. It was noted the Township has collected data and that data showed very few speeding vehicles. They suggested if residents see their neighbors speeding, they should talk to them. They also noted many of these vehicles are not going as fast as are perceived to be going. The Board agreed we need some type of metric written down and we need to have something we can refer to when requests are received.

Chair Hameister thanked the residents for their input and asked them to give the Board a chance to work on this. Mr. Boeckel said the policy he previous worked on is similar to what other communities in this area are using. He will work with Mr. Watts on options available and bring something back to the Board.

Mr. McGann asked if there was any reason why the Township can't start collecting data now. Mr. Boeckel said we have been gathering data for the past year since we purchased the monitoring devices and will continue to collect data.

b. REQUEST TO REQUIRE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF SUBDIVISION OR LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUBMISSION:

Mr. Boeckel briefly explained Dr. Roy Love's request that the Township amend its ordinances to require public notification when a new subdivision or land development plan is submitted.

Dr. Love said it makes sense to him to let abutting property owners know. The Board discussed other municipalities that require such signage. The Board of Supervisors felt this was something that the Township could consider. Mr. Boeckel said he will place this on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting next week and will bring their recommendation back to the Board.

c. ROCKEY RIDGE PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAN:

Mr. Shea briefly explained this plan. He said the Township and the developer met to discuss completion of some public improvements in the previously approved sections to allow the existing streets to be dedicated to the Township. The result of the meeting was the creation of a developer's agreement, which was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors and is awaiting signature from the developer. The developer's agreement required that the plan status be changed from Minor to Preliminary so that the street proposed in Section 5 can be completed and offered for dedication, which required the plan to be reviewed by the Planning Commission, which they did at their May meeting.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the Rockey Ridge Preliminary Subdivision Plan (East Kay Street Dedication/Subdivision of Tax Parcels 25-04-71 and 25-409-100/Revised Pedestrian Connection) contingent upon satisfactory completion of comments from the

May 29, 2026 letter of the Township Engineer and the June 2, 2026 letter of the Zoning Officer. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. BLUE SPRING ENCLAVE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN:

Mr. Shea said a final version of this plan that was approved in preliminary form in September 2025. He briefly explained this plan and noted that some of the infrastructure work is being completed under preliminary plan approval. Additionally, \$24,500 of parkland fee-in-lieu funding is required as a part of this final plan. That fee was received today.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the Blue Spring Enclave Final Subdivision Plan contingent upon satisfactory completion of the comments from the May 14, 2026, letter of the Township Engineer and the May 18, 2026, letter of the Zoning Officer. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. RESOLUTION NO. 26-12 – ADOPTING THE CATA LOCAL MATCH SHARE:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve Resolution No. 26-12, approving the local match share for the 2026-2027 CATA Budget. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. CONTRACT 26-01 – OUTER DRIVE PAVING PROJECT:

Vice Chair Harden moved to award Contract 26-01 – Outer Paving Project to Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. in the amount of \$59,985.00. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. APPOINTMENT TO THE LAND USE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Boeckel said the Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee (LUCI) and the Climate Action and Sustainability Committee (CAS) were merged into a single Land Use, Sustainability & Infrastructure (LUSI) Committee. Municipalities were asked to appoint one representative to the new LUSI Committee by June 19th.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Chair Hameister to serve as the Township's representative on the LUSI Committee for the remainder of 2026. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. REQUEST TO USE THE BOALSBURG FIRE POLICE:

Supervisor Wilson to approve the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police on June 14, 2026 for traffic control for the Ironman 70.3 Pennsylvania Happy Valley triathlon. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. REQUEST TO USE THE BOALSBURG FIRE POLICE:

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for the Wing Fest events at Tussey Mountain on June 11th, June 18th, June 25th, July 2nd, July 9th, July 16th, July 23rd, July 30th, and August 6th. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. REQUEST TO RESTRICT PARKING ON BOALSBURG PIKE, MEMORIAL DRIVE, LEE AVENUE, AND OLD BOALSBURG ROAD DURING THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE FESTIVAL:

Supervisor Wilson moved to restrict parking on the Boalsburg Pike from the bridge to the back entrance of the Museum and on both sides of Memorial Drive, Lee Avenue, and Old Boalsburg Road during the People's Choice Festival, which will be held July 9th-12th. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Boeckel said it did not look like the Board would be able to hold a mid-year meeting in July. He will send several dates out to the Board for a possible meeting in August. He asked the Board about closing a portion of Boalsburg Pike on Thanksgiving Day for the Turkey Trot. The Board felt if this portion was closed early in the day, it would be acceptable. With regard to the Penn State ARL DRI, the Board did not feel this item needed to be on their July agenda. Mr. Boeckel asked the Board to let him know if they planned to attend the 2026 PML Leadership Conference in Hershey in October. He also advised the Board that he would be on vacation June 20-27 and would not be attending the General Forum meeting. He said he will also be out of town for the July General Forum meeting but may Zoom into that meeting.

The Board felt the short term rental item regarding camps should be discussed at their next meeting so they could inform the Planning Commission what they would like them to consider on this matter.

7. **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2026-04 in the amount of \$201,220.43. Chair Hameister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive Committee: Vice Chair Harden said this group set the agenda for the General Forum.

Land Use and Community Infrastructure: Chair Hameister said this group did not meet.

Finance Committee: Vice Chair Harden said this group will meet on Thursday.

State College Area Connector Project: Vice-Chair Harden said there is nothing new to report on this project.

Centre County MPO: Vice-Chair Harden said this group will not meet until August.

Parks Capital Committee: Supervisor Murrell said this committee held a joint meeting with the Parks Authority and discussed the Puddintown interceptor special study update, discussed the 2027 budget timeline and their SGSI requests, discussed the CRPR Authority intergovernmental relationship agreement and discussed the CRPR Authority roles and responsibilities materials.

Supervisor Moriarty said she asked Ms. Owens about if they have a means of tracking which township the users are coming from and she was advised by Ms. Ownes that they don't have time to do that. Supervisor Moriarty said she feels this is important to know who is using these facilities and how do we know people are paying the appropriate amount. She also said she felt the Authority should be responsible for all the costs incurred with the lack of collecting sales taxes from the concessions and this money is paid back to the townships via concessions. She said she would like to see a schedule set up to see that this fine comes totally out of concessions.

Parks Governance Committee: Supervisor Murrell said this committee is working on updates to the bylaws and some questions about MOUs and acceptance of parkland.

Centre Region Parks Authority: Supervisor Murrell said he previously reported on this group.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission: Supervisor Murrell said since Randy Brackbill is leaving, there has been some rearranging and Kevin Abbey is now the Chair and he is the Vice Chair.

Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Wilson said this committee discussed the hazmat agreement and one budget amendment which doesn't really affect us. He said Dr. Schneider introduced a couple budget requests for next year as far as new construction equipment and they need to hire one more fire and safety inspector next year.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Vice Chair Harden moved to adjourn. Chair Hameister adjourned the meeting at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary