

**HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026**

Board Members in Attendance: Dennis Hameister, Chair
Frank Harden, Vice Chair
Nigel Wilson
Tracey Moriarty
Chris Murrell – via Zoom – arrived at 8:12 p.m..

Staff in Attendance: Mark Boeckel, Township Manager
Tibben Zerby, Township Engineer
Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary – via Zoom

Public in Attendance: John Sepp, PennTerra Engineering
Diane Farr
Dottie Yukish, BVC President
Randy Ploog, BVC Board Member
Sue Kellerman, Boalsburg Liberty Bell Representative
Gage Ricker
Van Winter, Boalsburg Fire Chief
Doreen Diehl
Rick Miller

**Public in Attendance
via Zoom:** Danielle & Craig Kaniecki

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hameister called the August 10, 2026 meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve the July 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes and the July 27, 2026 special meeting. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no citizens present to discuss items not on the agenda.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no new items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

a. UPDATE ON THE BOALSBURG LIBERTY BELL INSTALLATION:

Sue Kellerman, Boalsburg Liberty Bell representative and member of the Boalsburg Village Conservancy, gave a brief presentation on the Boalsburg Liberty Bell, which will be installed in the Diamond. She introduced scout Gage Ricker from Boalsburg Troop 380 who will be overseeing the installation as his Eagle Scout project. She said there have been several meetings with the Township regarding maintenance and clearing of the site and the committee has had several meetings with Mr. Ricker on this project. She said Mr. Ricker will be submitting his proposal to the scout committee. Once he receives approval from the committee, installation will begin. She thanked the Township for their assistance in this project. The installation will hopefully begin at the end of August and they hope it will be completed by the end of September. Chair Hameister thanked Ms. Kellerman and Mr. Ricker.

b. ROCKEY RIDGE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN:

Mr. Boeckel gave a brief overview of this plan. In response to a question from the Board, John Sepp from PennTerra Engineering explained the reason for the land swap. There were no other public comments.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the Rockey Ridge Final 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 the comments from the August 5, 2026, memo of the Centre Regional Planning Agency, the August 5, 2026, letter of the Township Engineer, and the August 6, 2026, letter of the Zoning Officer. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. REQUEST TO RESTRICT PARKING ON OLD BOALSBURG ROAD:

Mr. Boeckel said the Boalsburg Cemetery Association is requesting that the Board of Supervisors consider designating the north side of Old Boalsburg Road from their maintenance shop to the western edge of the cemetery. They specified that their request has arisen due to the deterioration of the stone berm and vehicles pulling further into the cemetery property. They also noted that the parking has created a mud mess.

Rick Miller, representing the Boalsburg Cemetery Association, discussed the mud mess vehicles parking along this section of the road is causing. He also stated the association has received complaints from friends and family members who are trying to visit sites and cannot park in this area to get to the plots. The Board briefly discussed continuing the posting the entire length of this street. It was noted there are houses on the other side of the street that would be affected by posting the entire section of the street. It was also noted there are sidewalks further down the street that would prohibit parking. The Board briefly discussed sign placement and enforcement.

It was the consensus of the Board that staff should prepare an ordinance amendment and advertise a public hearing to establish no-parking in this area.

d. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND ZONING ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THE POSTING OF SIGNAGE UPON SUBMISSION OF A SUBDIVISION OR LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Mr. Boeckel provided a brief background on this item. Chair Hameister said the only comment he had on this was that he did not want to see the sign as an endorsement by the Township. Mr. Boeckel said the signs would be very basic and simply informational.

Vice Chair Harden moved to have Staff advertise a public hearing and place the regulations on an upcoming Board agenda for possible adoption. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. BOALSBURG SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Boeckel said the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes funding in 2026 and 2027 to repair the sidewalk network in the Village. Over the past few months, Township Engineer Tibben Zerby has worked on preparing recommendations for the first phase of this project. Mr. Zerby will be present to discuss the project and potential changes that will be needed to improve accessibility.

Diane Farr said she first became aware of some of the sidewalk issues when we had developers discussing how we should have sidewalks all over the Village. She said all she knows about this project is what she is reading here and she sees this is step one, but she was wondering if a thumbnail sketch could be provided as to what steps two, three, etc. would be. Mr. Boeckel said right now we are focusing on looking at the sidewalks that currently exist in getting them up to standards. He said the next steps would be getting the Board to identify where they would want to see the network expand, if at all. The first step is getting the current sidewalks repaired and up to date with ADA requirements. He said we are part of a Safe Streets for All study that the Centre County MPO is working on that is assessing missing links and opportunities throughout all of Centre County. He said we are hoping that will show a couple locations where it might make sense for pedestrian connections to be developed in the future. Ms. Farr said she has also heard that it is the homeowner's cost when the sidewalk goes in. Mr. Boeckel said that is not necessarily correct. He said right now, he does not believe our ordinance specifies that it is the homeowner's responsibility to take care of the sidewalk. This is something the Board has talked about doing because that more or less mirrors what the state law says about sidewalks. He said there are some developments in the Township where the sidewalks very clearly have been delegated to the adjacent property owners on the land development plan. He said that may not be the case in the Village. Ms. Farr also mentioned the Township's ordinance regarding snow removal 24 hours after the snowfall. She said this is a challenge to homeowners with properties that have large frontage. Ms. Farr said she is interested in what goes beyond step one. She asked that the Township keep residents updated of future steps in this program.

Tibben Zerby, Township Engineer, showed the Board maps of various locations and conditions of existing sidewalks or where no sidewalks exist. He specifically discussed ten locations to

focus on in 2026. He said these ten areas total 731.7 linear feet of sidewalks. The group discussed tree/sidewalk issues, narrow sidewalks, asphalt and brick sidewalks. Mr. Tibben discussed various construction practices. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Zerby stated curbing could be added along sidewalks, however that would incur added costs and potential stormwater issues.

Possible removal of three trees on East Main Street at the corner of Academy Street was also discussed. The Board requested that the Shade Tree Commission review the health of the trees and decide if they should be removed. Mr. Boeckel noted \$100,000 has been included in the budget for this project and the engineer's estimate for these ten locations would be approximately \$98,000.

It was the consensus of the Board to have staff move forward with advertising this project for bid.

- f. PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 385 – ADOPTING LICENSING AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SOLICITORS/PEDDLERS, TRANSIENT RETAIL BUSINESSES, AND MOBILE FOOD VENDORS:

A public hearing was held on this item earlier in the evening.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve Ordinance No. 385, establishing Licensing Requirements and Operational Standards for solicitors, peddlers, Transient Retail Businesses, and Mobile Food Vendors. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. RESOLUTION NO. 26-13: AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULE TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR SOLICITOR/PEDDLER, TRANSIENT RETAIL BUSINESS, AND MOBILE FOOD VENDOR LICENSES PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 385:

Mr. Boeckel reviewed the proposed fees that would need to be approved to amend the fee schedule with the adoption of Ordinance 385. He stated the ordinance would not be effective until October 1, 2026 in order to give staff time to purchase lanyards and get all licenses, etc. in place.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve Resolution 26-13, amending the fee schedule to establish fees for Solicitor/Peddler, Transient Retail Business, and Mobile Food Vendor licenses. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- h. REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE AND USE OF FIRE POLICE:

Supervisor Moriarty moved to close Old Boalsburg Road from the cemetery maintenance shed to the entrance of the Boal City Brewing parking lot on Sunday, October 4th from 10 am to 1 pm for the Boal City Brewing 5k Trail Run and approve the use of the Boalsburg

Fire Police from 10:30 am to 1 pm to assist with the event. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE RESOLUTIONS DELEGATE:

The Pennsylvania Municipal League Leadership Summit is scheduled for October 7th - 10th in Hershey. Per the bylaws, the Township is entitled to appoint a voting delegate and alternate to serve at the Resolutions Committee Meeting and Annual Business Meeting. Vice Chair Harden and the Township Manager are planning to attend.

Supervisor Murrell moved to appoint Vice Chair Harden as a voting delegate and Mr. Boeckel as an alternate delegate for the Pennsylvania Municipal League Resolutions Committee Meeting and Annual Business Meeting. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boeckel said as a reminder, the Board of Supervisors will be holding a work session on August 25th at 11 am. Lunch will be provided. The agenda packet for this meeting will be available the week before the meeting. He said he has been contacted by PennDOT to have a meeting with the Board to update them on some items regarding the SCAC. He asked the Board if they would be agreeable to inviting PennDOT to this meeting. The Board agreed to invite PennDOT either at 10 am or 2 pm.

He also noted he and Rob Watts continue to discuss a draft traffic calming policy for the Township. Dr. Love requested that the Township postpone any community group meeting until September as he and several other interested parties would be unable to attend in August. They are trying to figure out a September date that will work for Mr. Watts.

Mr. Boeckel said the Township was contacted regarding the removal of dead white oaks killed by spongy moths on the land recently donated to the Township. The timbering company contacted him and offered to walk the property to estimate the value of the dead standing timber. They said that if the trees are not cut down soon, most if not all value will be lost. They estimated their payment for the timber at approximately \$30,000. He said there may be access issues that he would need to discuss with the Township Solicitor. If the Board is interested in having the dead trees removed, the Board would need to authorize advertising the sale of the timber and follow the typical bidding practice for the sale of real estate/assets. It was the consensus of the Board to have Mr. Boeckel look into what would need to be done to have these trees removed.

Mr. Boeckel asked the Board what they would like to have staff do regarding the replacement of the multiple asphalt shingle roofs at the office complex. The low bid from the three telephone quotes solicited came from Hillside Construction and was \$19,445. Since the quote was under the required advertising threshold, the Manager can award the project without soliciting additional quotes or advertising. The 2026 budget includes \$20,000 from the Special Projects

fund for building repairs. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the roofing project

7. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Supervisor Wilson moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2026-7 in the amount of \$214,703.32. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Land Use, Sustainability and Infrastructure Committee: Chair Hameister said this group discussed the Tussey Mounty Ski and Recreation DRI and had a presentation on Data Centers and their implications in the Centre Region.

Finance Committee: Vice-Chair Harden said this group did not meet last month.

State College Area Connector Project: Vice-Chair Harden said PennDOT will be providing an update on this project at the Board's August 25th meeting.

Centre County MPO: Vice-Chair Harden said this group did not meet.

Parks Capital Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee did not meet.

Parks Governance Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee did not meet.

Centre Region Parks Authority: Supervisor Murrell said this group did not meet.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission: Supervisor Murrell said this group set their budget for the year and discussed trying to get more grants for projects.

Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Wilson said this committee had a presentation on PEMA Community Resiliency and Sustainability through Planning and reviewed the SGSI municipal comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Vice-Chair Harden moved to adjourn. Chair Hameister adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary