

TILDEN TRIBUNE

The Official Newsletter of Tilden Township

2023

A LOOK BACK AT 2022

Normal operations continued despite the ongoing challenges presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic. 2022 was again a busy and productive year in Tilden Township and for the Board of Supervisors. Significant progress was made in several areas.

In personnel matters we accepted with regret the resignation of Assistant Secretary Lorraine Ramirez and Officer Jose Quinones. Fortunately, we were able to hire very competent replacements. Samantha Hartman assumed duties as the Township's Assistant Secretary and Officer Ron Mohl joined the Tilden Police Department. In other actions Christopher Forte was reappointed to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission and Karl Halye was reappointed to a 5-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. We were pleased both these experienced people expressed a desire to continue to serve in these capacities.

The township entered the second year of full responsibility for oversight and direction of the water system, which serves our commercial area. A number of upgrades have been made to the system to improve both the quality of the water and operational safety.

A final public hearing was held concerning the revised Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan and it was enacted by all the participating municipalities. In addition to Tilden Township, it covers the Boroughs of Hamburg and Shoemakersville, Perry Township, Upper Bern Township, Upper Tulpehocken Township, and Windsor Township. Other entities which participated in the committee, which developed the draft, were the Hamburg Area School District, the Hamburg Our Town Foundation, and the Berks County Planning Commission. This Comprehensive Plan is intended to establish overall policies for the development and conservation of the Northern Berks region over the next 15 years. This Plan is not by itself a regulation, but is intended to provide the policy direction for changes to the municipalities' development regulations. The Comprehensive Plan includes the following major elements: Overall Vision and Goals, Demographics and Housing Overview, Natural Features and Agricultural Conservation Plan, Community Facilities and Services Plan, Historic Preservation Plan, Economic Development Plan Transportation Plan, Existing Land Use Plan, Future Land Use Plan, Implementation Plan, and Action Program. It provides a basis for implementation techniques, such as land use ordinances, administrative actions, official maps and capital improvement programs, which will enhance the quality of life for the region's residents. It allows for maintaining the general character of a municipality since only one party to the agreement must provide for a given use.

The Rental Housing Ordinance; which was enacted in 2021 to ensure that rental units are fit for human occupation and use, was amended to simplify the certification of the condition of rental units by establishing a self-inspection procedure.

Supervisors Gene Schappell and Fred Herman and Township Manager Monica Flower continued involvement with the Northern Berks Development Initiative, "On Ramps to the Future", hosted by the Hamburg Area School District and involving officials from municipalities within the school district, the county, and the state. The primary thrust of this group is examining quality of life issues and developing strategies to retain our youth. To that end it is anticipated this group will be conducting the required regular reviews of the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan.

Tilden Township

Municipal Office

www.tildentownship.com

874 Hex Highway

Hamburg, PA 19526

610-562-7410

Fax: 610-562-5490

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Email

office@tildentownship.com

mflower@tildentownship.com

shartman@tildentownship.com

Tilden Police Department

870 Hex Highway

Hamburg, PA 19526

If there is an emergency dial 911

Dispatch: 610-655-4911

Office: 610-562-9001

Fax: 610-562-9148

police@tildentownship.com

Tilden Tax Collector

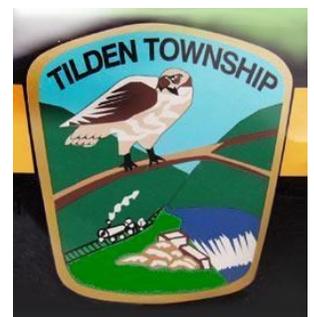
Dorothy McLoughlin 610-562-9804

taxcollector@tildentownship.com

Road Department

610-562-8073

mquick@tildentownship.com



A LOOK BACK AT 2022 (continued)

The Transportation Impact Fee Advisory Committee's work concluded in 2022. A Transportation Capital Improvements Plan was developed. Then the updated ordinance setting the fee for additional trips generated by future development was enacted.

There was another summer open air, family friendly movie night. We are grateful to the movie sponsors; Gander RV, Carbon Engineering, Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Ltd and Kelly Auto Group. In other recreation related matters the township received a very generous donation from the Kelly Automobile Group. This was used to add several more pieces of playground equipment at our main campus, replace the basketball backboards and hoops at the Senator Rhoades Park, and make safety improvements to the fence at the baseball field.

We added some equipment during 2022. A John Deere 524k front end loader was purchased and will be very useful to the road crew for a variety of tasks. A 2012 Ford Expedition was also purchased for use as a general utility vehicle to save wear and tear on our trucks. Both were pre-owned, but in very good condition and very reasonably priced.

Finally, we are pleased to report the township's financial position remains solid. We finished 2022 under budget. A balanced budget of approximately \$2.8 million for 2023 was enacted with only a small increase, .10 mill, in the fire tax to further assist the Hamburg and Shartlesville Fire Companies. The budget provides adequate funds to carry over to fund operations at the beginning of 2024. The latter is necessary every year because most revenue is received after the 1st calendar quarter. Lastly, our uniformed and non-uniformed pension funds continue to be in a strong position.

Fire Chiefs' Message to the Community 2023

The members of the Union Fire Company (UFC) responded to 726 calls during 2022 throughout Hamburg, Tilden and Windsor townships in addition to providing mutual aid across Northern Berks and Southern Schuylkill County. Our volunteers are committed to countless hours of service to our community, through responding to calls, training, fundraising and various other community service projects. Their dedication, like many departments across the state, remain committed to providing professional based fire and rescue services to the vast number of residents and guests who travel across our first due area. I'm very proud of the services each of our members give back to the community they live in and the sacrifices they all give throughout the year.

Major impacts of the department's capital funding and apparatus support have resulted in large-scale joint efforts with the borough and township officials who have worked to form the fire service working group committee to meet and provide a joint effort in the department. Key points include financial stability and apparatus replacement plans and how it will affect the next 5-10 years of the community. This vested interest and partnership is key to the success of the department ability to provide the highest level of equipment for our community to provide services.

Highlights of 2022 include: increased communication and development with our municipality partners in support of the organization long term needs. Working to complete phase 2 of our building project renovation projects including the second-floor day room and office area construction projects for our day room staffing plans. Completing numerous training classes during the year, and finalizing the work to our training center located in the field house parking lot area for use of our members. This facility houses the following: the gas main simulator, roof simulator and forceable entry simulator, and parking pad area for vehicle rescue training.

Goals to meet in 2023: Up to date training, current fire and rescue topics- continuing education: hybrid and electric vehicle response classes, annual hazmat training, the next phase of the new member intro to firefighter classes, continuation of the vehicle rescue series, residential and commercial solar panel response, railroad emergency, and the on going list state certifications by members wishing to continue in obtaining essentials, firefighter 1, fire II and on going fire command or fire marshal certifications. Completion of the department building projects, will remain an ongoing part until completion we hope in the later part of 2023. Long term planning and staffing.

We appreciate all the support we get from our community to make every aspect of the department a success as we continue toward our goals to provide fire and rescue services throughout Northern Berks county.

Sincerely,

Jarrold K. Emes - Fire Chief



2022 Tilden Township Planning Commission Report

During 2022, the Tilden Township Planning Commission met a total of 12 times in the municipal building. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings. One of the very first items on the agenda of every meeting is public participation.

The members during 2022 were Josh Breslin, Sharon Enevoldson, Christopher Forte, Dale Keener, and Greg Kozlowski. In addition to these members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the township and Planning Commission secretary meet on a monthly basis. During the meetings, plans for subdivisions are reviewed, comments are prepared for items before the Zoning Hearing Board, and ordinance revisions are discussed. Each one of these three items results in the Planning Commission making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or the Zoning Hearing Board.

Plans reviewed by the Planning Commission in 2022 included the following:

Cabela's Renovation Plan – During six meetings this plan to enlarge the current building footprint appeared on the agenda. This plan / project was ultimately withdrawn by Cabela's in December 2022. It would have resulted in the construction of a boat and maintenance facility on the south side of the current building.

Kelly Hyundai – During three meetings the Planning Commission worked with the leadership, engineering, and legal representatives of Kelly to review plans to build a new service facility for the Hyundai dealership. This plan necessitated a request to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the variance as detailed in our letter to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Edge Self Storage – A revision to the previously approved plan was requested by the owners. The request was to modify the buildings proposed for the site.

Recommendations to the Zoning Hearing Board in 2022 included the following:

Cabela's Renovation Request – A request to reduce the number of parking spaces on the property.

Joseph Tetz – A request to conduct educational seminars and exhibits of agriculture from an earlier era.

Kelly Hyundai – A request to build beyond the setback area on the property.

170 Possum Road – No comments or recommendations were provided to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Ordinance Review and Development:

During most meetings of 2022, the Planning Commission worked to review and develop revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. This review involved working with the Township Solicitor and Engineer to identify areas where future use patterns may necessitate rules to be developed. These areas included the uses of properties, creating additional definitions, short term rentals of dwellings, solar farms, solar energy systems, keeping livestock at a residential property (chickens, bees, and other animals), warehouse and distribution facilities, ag-tourism, and agri-tainment. Many of these uses will lead to the development of performance standards in the new Zoning Ordinance. During the fourth quarter, a greater focus was placed on solar energy and the potential for developing an ordinance specific to this use.

Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan:

At the January 18th meeting, the Planning Commission recommended the Board of Supervisors schedule a hearing to adopt the 2022 update to the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission member Greg Kozlowski was one of the three Tilden representatives who participated in the review process of the plan.

The Planning Commission appreciates the service of Fred Herman as acting secretary following the resignation of Lorraine Ramirez. At the November meeting, the Planning Commission met Samantha Hartman, the recently hired Assistant Secretary. She will also serve as the secretary for the Planning Commission.

At the December meeting, Josh Breslin let the members know he would not seek reappointment by the Board of Supervisors. We will miss Josh and appreciate his years of service to the Planning Commission.

Detailed minutes of the Planning Commission meetings are available on the township website or at the Municipal Building. Members of the Planning Commission volunteer their time in service to the community with the goal of enhancing and keeping Tilden Township a great place to live, work, and enjoy.



Proudly serving the residents of Tilden Township

Chief William J. McElroy III
Officer Jordan D. Heckman

Sgt. Peter J. Witman
Officer Frank A. Cataldi

Officer Ronald A. Mohl

Dear residents,

Please review the information below to help protect you and your property.

- Scams – Residents should be suspicious of anything that sounds “too good to be true.” Scammers often call residents pretending to be businesses or government officials in order to coerce you into sending them money that you do not owe them. If you are not sure who is on the other end of that phone, do not provide them with any type of private information, especially financial. Get their name and phone number. Tell them you will call them back. Then look up the published phone number for the actual business or government agency and contact them to find out if the previous phone call was legitimate or a scam.
- Mailing of personal checks with the US Postal Service. In 2022, law enforcement across the country saw a huge increase “check washing” fraud. Check washing scams involve changing the payee names and often the dollar amounts on checks and fraudulently depositing them by either “washing” the check itself or using a computer to digitally alter the information.

How to protect yourself from check washing.

- Deposit mail before last pickup: Deposit your outgoing mail in blue collection boxes before the last pickup or at your local Post Office
- Retrieve mail frequently: Never leave your mail in your mailbox overnight.
- Hold mail at Post Office: If you’re going on vacation, have your mail held at the Post Office or have it picked up by a friend or neighbor.
- Vacation Checks - If you will be away from your house for an extended period of time, you are welcome to contact our department and request a vacation check on your residence. If police notice any suspicious activity while you are away, officers will immediately contact you or the emergency contact(s) that you provided. Please remember to secure your residence when you are away.

Thank you.

Chief William J. McElroy III

Don't Forget!

Are you signed up for Code Red Alerts?

Code Red Alerts are critical alerts sent right to your phone.

With the CodeRED Mobile Alert app enables subscribers to receive these notifications directly to their mobile device whether at home, on the road, or traveling around the country.

Are you in need of Special Assistance?

If you or someone in your household requires special assistance during an emergency due to a medical condition, please complete the special assistance form, and turn it in to the Tilden Township Office. Even if you have completed this for previously, you will need to complete & submit it to the Tilden Township Office with updated information annually.

ACCEPTED:

Prescription medications in standard container or sealed bag

Over the counter medications
Vitamins

Drug samples
Pet medications

Liquid medications in plastic,
leak proof containers

NOT ACCEPTED:

Loose pills
Syringes & Needles
Thermometers

Bloody or infectious waste
Medication from businesses

Aerosol cans

Inhalers

Hydrogen peroxide and all other cleaning agents



TILDEN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 175 of 1974, that the Regular Meetings of the **Board of Supervisors** of the Township of Tilden for the 2023 calendar year will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Township Municipal Building, 874 Hex Highway, unless otherwise specified. On a rare occasion a meeting date will need to be changed. Changes are advertised in the Legal Notices section of the Classified Ads in the Reading Eagle. Any person with a disability requiring special accommodations to attend township meetings should notify the secretary at 610-562-7410 as early as possible, but not later than three working days prior to the scheduled meeting. The governing body will make every effort to provide a reasonable accommodation.

* The budget for 2024 will be prepared immediately following the October 2023 monthly meeting.

** The budget for 2024 will be adopted at the December 13, 2023 monthly meeting

BOS Workshops at 9:00 AM:

February 3
March 3
April 6
May 5
June 9
July 7
August 4
September 8
October 6
November 3
December 8
December 29

BOS Regular Meetings at 7:00 PM:

January 3
February 8
March 8
April 14
May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11*
November 8
December 13 **

Planning Commission Meetings 7:30 PM

January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21
December 19

2023 TAX COLLECTOR SITTING DATES AND TIMES

Tuesday, March 21 & 28 – 6:30 PM – 8 PM

Thursday, April 20 & 27 – 6:30 PM – 8 PM

Tuesday, April 4, 18, & 25 - 6:30 PM - 8PM

Saturday, April 22 & 29 - 9:30 AM - 11AM

More sitting dates & times are TBA, and will be posted on the Township Website.

Let's Make Tilden Township Litter Free Again!

Tilden Township is continuing our “Adopt A Roadway” Program

Our mission is to gather groups for the purpose of picking up trash throughout designated roads in the Township in order to keep Tilden Township a beautiful place to live and work. Our dedicated volunteers are committed to picking up trash on their designated roads at least twice a year or more, if needed.

As you drive throughout the Township, you sometimes see litter along our roadways. Unfortunately, this seems to be a trend in our society. Nevertheless, there are residents who are willing to spend their time and effort in order to reverse the negative effects that arise from continued discarding of trash.

In order for us to coordinate this project, we need your help to volunteer and “adopt” your very own road! Please call the Township Office 610-562-7410 or stop in for more information about the program and how you can help!

HELP KEEP OUR TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFUL. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



We thank all of our volunteers for their continued support.



Family Movie Nights

Saturday, June 24th

Saturday, August 19th

Tilden Baseball Volunteers will have the Concession stand open for snacks and beverages. All proceeds go directly to the Tilden Boys Baseball Association.

Behind the Tilden Municipal Building on the baseball outfield.
874 Hex Highway, Hamburg, PA 19526

Thank you to our Sponsors & Volunteers!

Movies are TBA

*Do I Need A Permit For That?..... **YES!***

Driveway Permits – Required for the construction of a new driveway, to reconstruct, improve, pave, or black-top an existing driveway, and to construct and/or pave a drainage area or other means of ingress or egress to property which connects to a Township road. Application for a permit can be picked up at the Township office. Driveways abutting a state road require a permit from PennDOT. Please contact the Temple PennDOT office at 610-929-0766.

Occupancy Permit – Upon completion of a dwelling, an occupancy permit must be obtained from the Zoning Officer prior to establishing residence.

On-Lot Sewage Permit – State and Municipal laws require permits for the installation of any new on-site sewage system or corrections/repairs to any existing on-site system. To obtain a permit, contact the Sewage Enforcement Officer at 484-662-3910.

Solicitation Permit – Anyone engaged in selling, soliciting, or taking orders for any goods or merchandise will need a solicitation permit before sales commence. Charitable organizations are required to obtain a permit. Application can be picked up at the Township office and is subject to review by the Township Police prior to issuance.

Zoning/Building Permits – Required for new construction, additions to existing structures, garages, porches and/or decks, accessory buildings (sheds), swimming pools, solar panels, roof replacement, retaining walls, fences, and accessory farm buildings. A zoning permit is also required for home occupations.

If you are unsure of your permitting needs, contact the Township office prior to beginning your project.

Review of Ordinances

Keep Your Grass To Yourself! Summer is coming and that brings the need to start mowing the grass again. As per Ordinance # 129-2000, It is your responsibility as a homeowner/ occupant to maintain your grass. It is a requirement to cut any and all grass, weeds, and other vegetation on or by June 30th and August 31st. As per Ordinance # 130-2000, no litter is to be thrown/ deposited into the streets, this includes yard waste materials (grass clippings) as it creates a danger to public safety.

Where's Your House? In the event of an emergency fire, police and ambulatory services will need to be able to find you. As per Ordinance # 240-2020, building numbers must be a minimum of 3inches in height for all residential buildings, 4inches in height for all buildings with 3 or more dwelling units, and 10inches in height for all other buildings.

What Do You Burn? There are now further burning restrictions in Zoning Districts R-3 and R-4, in addition to restrictions on burning trash and yard waste. Please refer to Ordinance # 250-2023 for the updated guidelines to burning. In this Ordinance, the 2018 International Fire Code was also adopted.

Do You Rent? To protect both tenant and landlord Ordinance # 247-2022 was approved in May 2022. If you are a landlord in Tilden Township, please review this Ordinance. All properties that are not owner occupied are considered a rental property. Even if the tenant(s) are family and rent is not being paid. The process is easy! You can find the forms needed on our Township Website.

**ALL ORDINANCES CAN BE FOUND AT
TILDENTOWNSHIP.COM/COMPLETE-LIST-OF-ORDINANCES**

2023 Pavilion / Concession Stand Rental Fees		
<u>Rental</u>	<u>Tilden Township Resident</u>	<u>Non-Township Resident</u>
Pavilion only	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
Pavilion and Concession Stand	\$ 90.00	\$ 100.00
Refundable Deposit	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00

It's never too early to think about winter weather!



Please remember to keep your snow stakes 1 foot back to allow space for the plows to push the snow off of the roads.

Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge

Across:

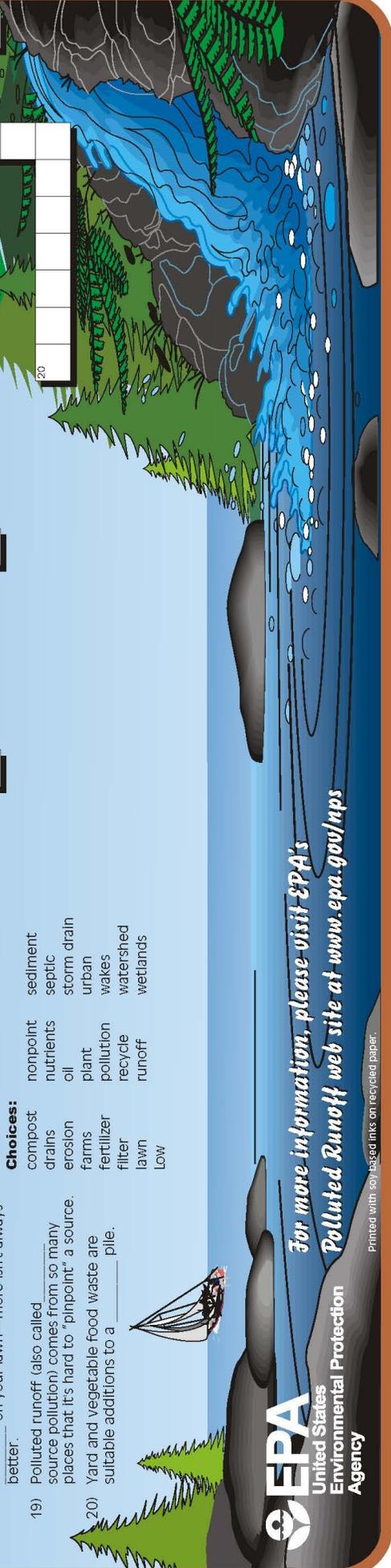
- The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a _____.
- The _____ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
- Maintaining your _____ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
- Wetland plants act like a natural water _____, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- Leave your grass clippings on your _____ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
- A single quart of motor _____, if disposed of improperly, can pollute 2 million gallons of water.
- Fertilizers and animal wastes contain aquatic plants harmful to water quality that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
- Polluted runoff from both rural and _____ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
- Storm _____ don't always connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
- Follow directions carefully when applying _____ on your lawn—more isn't always better.
- Polluted runoff (also called source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pinpoint" a source.
- Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions to a _____ pile.

Down:

- Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains. _____ it!
- _____ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
- _____ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife.
- Marking "Do Not Dump, Drains to Bay" on a _____ is one way to educate people about polluted runoff.
- Excess sediment, nutrients, toxics, and pathogens are all types of runoff _____.
- Polluted _____ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
- The cattail is one wetland _____ that helps purify polluted runoff.
- Too much _____ in water can harm aquatic life.
- Proper crop and animal management on _____ helps to control water pollution.
- _____ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

Choices:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| compost | nonpoint | sediment |
| drains | nutrients | septic |
| erosion | oil | storm drain |
| farms | plant | urban |
| fertilizer | pollution | wakes |
| filter | recycle | watershed |
| lawn | runoff | wetlands |
| Low | | |



For more information, please visit EPA's
Polluted Runoff web site at www.epa.gov/nps

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