

**HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP
SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2020**

Meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:05pm. Attendees included Commissioner Gerry Hart (Commissioner Liaison), Mark Cohen (Ward 4), Victor Barsky (Ward 5), Rodney Pelchat (Ward 8) and Aimee Cuthbertson, Assistant Township Manager.

Ms. Cuthbertson advised the group that each member is up for reappointment in 2021 and that if anyone was interested in continuing to serve that they should contact their Ward Commissioner directly.

Mr. Cohen asked each person in attendance to introduce themselves. He began the meeting with restating three objectives that were in discussions late last year:

1. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – desire to incorporate some type of criteria to provide general property tax relief directed at seniors (e.g. income levels, length of years living in township, etc) plus concern over county-wide reassessment and impact on seniors
2. CURB REPLACEMENT – concern over financial impact to seniors when selling their homes with the Use & Occupancy permit requirement to bring curb heights up to current code. He reminded the group of previous suggestions to the Township Manager that included an annual charge to be applied to each property in Haverford which would fund curb replacements.
3. POTENTIAL SENIOR CENTER – need for a dedicated and appropriately spaced senior center in Haverford Township

Discussion on these topics continued and are summarized as follows:

1. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – Ms. Cuthbertson advised group that any senior can call the finance department which can provide an estimate on 2021 township property tax impacts due to the reassessment. These continue to only be estimates as the County has not yet certified our township-wide assessment figures.
2. CURB REPLACEMENT – Ms. Cuthbertson advised group that a supplemental ordinance was passed in late 2019 bringing the curb reveal requirements down to 3". While this still does not eliminate responsibility to bring up to code, the change should mitigate the impact on residents.
3. POTENTIAL SENIOR CENTER – Commissioner Hart advised that the discussion of the Brookline site is still on going with a committee scheduled to present ideas at the November Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Hart encouraged the senior citizen advisory council members to participate in that meeting. Mr. Cohen asked to be kept informed on any discussions related to development of the Brookline School. Mr. Barsky brought up the possible use of the CREC but was advised that the facility is regularly rented out and wouldn't be able to dedicate space for seniors on a full-time basis. Mr. Barsky then brought up the potential use of township property at 2325 Darby Rd (and/or the adjacent Quatrani building) as a solution. It was noted that kitchen facilities would need to be installed.

General discussion involved the need for outreach programs to assist seniors especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many seniors with no or limited access to technology (e.g. Zoom) which further reduces the opportunity for social interactions and community involvement.

General discussion also involved the desire for an additional meeting to be added to the 2021 calendar for the month of February. Ms. Cuthbertson will advise the Township Manager's office to include a meeting on the Township calendar to be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Mr. Cohen reminded members of the next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2020 @ 7pm which will be held via Zoom. Ms. Cuthbertson will advise all current council members of the meeting and arrange for phone instructions so Jack Dougherty can participate.

Mr. Cohen called for meeting to adjourn at approximately 7:45pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP Senior Citizen Advisory Board meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Senior Citizen Advisory Board will hold a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be hosted through Zoom. If you would like to view the meeting or submit a question to the Senior Citizen Advisory Board please email Aimee Cuthbertson, Assistant Township Manager by 4pm on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – at acuthbertson@havtwp.org. For those who want to attend virtually a zoom link will be emailed to them.