

**Mt. Joy Township
Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Kim Birkhead, Chairman; Kenneth Mutzabaugh, Vice-Chairman; Ben Mearns; Ben Hawkins, Chris Burne

Also Present: Kim Livelsberger, Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

The Mount Joy Township Planning Commission met this date, as publicly advertised, at the Mount Joy Township Building located at 902 Hoffman Home Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325. In addition to being in person, the meeting was also accessible by remote ZOOM platform. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Chairman Comments: None

Public Comments: None

- **Approval of Minutes:** July 14, 2026 - Mr. Burne moved, seconded by Mr. Mutzabaugh, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Business:

- **Presentation by Michael (Max) Bramel, Treasurer Healthy Adams Bicycle & Pedestrian, Inc.** Both Max Bramel from Health Adams Bicycle & Pedestrian, Inc. and John Hartzell, a retired attorney spoke to the PC members. The discussion focused on the potential development of bicycle or mixed-use trails in Mount Joy Township. It was noted that many bicyclists prefer trails separated from vehicular traffic and that mixed-use trails could provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Before pursuing a trail project, the Township should consider surveying residents to determine community interest and desired recreational opportunities. Potential funding sources discussed included recreational impact fees associated with development and grants, including programs through DCNR. A recreational plan could also help establish priorities and funding for future projects.

Several potential trail configurations were discussed, including linear trails, rail trails, and utilizing existing, lesser-used Township roads or rights-of-way to minimize land acquisition and construction costs. Examples from surrounding communities were provided to demonstrate recreational and economic benefits, including increased support for local restaurants, businesses, and other amenities. The speaker emphasized that the Township should first determine community desires, available funding, and the level of support from the Board of Supervisors before developing specific recommendations or ordinances.

A concern was raised regarding the safety and feasibility of widening existing roads to accommodate bicycle trails, particularly where roads are narrow, bridges are constrained, and widening could require acquiring portions of adjacent properties. It was suggested that the Township Solicitor be consulted regarding the statutory 33-foot right-of-way associated with Township roads and whether that right-of-way could accommodate a trail without requiring additional property acquisition.

Liability and long-term maintenance were also discussed. The Recreational Use of Land Act may provide some protection to entities that make land available for recreational purposes, although negligence and gross negligence remain concerns. Participants expressed concern about ensuring that adequate funding is available for ongoing trail maintenance, including mowing, snow removal, and repairs. An example was provided of a municipality establishing a dedicated maintenance fund as part of a trail partnership. The discussion noted that trails located adjacent to existing Township roads may be easier and more cost-effective to maintain because existing mowing and snow-removal operations could potentially service both facilities. Separate trails would require additional equipment, labor, and funding, creating a significant long-term maintenance obligation.

Adjournment. With no further business, Mr. Mutzabaugh moved, seconded by Mr. Burne, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Moyer
Township Secretary