

2020 | SUMMER ISSUE



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

The Official Newsletter

A Message From The Board of Supervisors

It is a very tough decision but in an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our residents and neighbors, the Board of Supervisors of New Britain Township announces with regret that the Annual Tri-Municipal Parade is cancelled for 2020. Given the ongoing restrictions for public gatherings, it is safer to cancel the Parade considering the current pandemic. We have not been able to go out and get funding like usual. We find it hard asking businesses and locals for donations when we are all in a tight spot right now. Ultimately, we have to do what's best for all our community members and residents. Stay Safe, and we will celebrate next year!

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THIS SEASON'S ISSUE:

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ZONING 101: Zoning Hearing Board

by Kelsey Harris

What is a Zoning Hearing Board?

Every municipality in Pennsylvania that enacts a zoning ordinance is required by law to establish a Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB). A ZHB is a quasi-judicial board formed for the purpose of hearing appeals and/or requests for relief from the literal interpretation of the zoning ordinance when certain hardships are present. A ZHB has no legislative authority. They cannot enact, repeal, or amend the content of the zoning ordinance, that can only be done by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The ZHB of New Britain Township is comprised of three members and one alternate member. Each member serves a three year term. The BOS appoints each ZHB member by resolution. These members must be residents of the municipality and cannot hold an elective office in the municipality.

What are the functions of the ZHB?

The ZHB has exclusive jurisdiction over these specific matters: substantive challenges to the validity of a zoning ordinance, applications for variance requests and special exceptions, appeals from the determination of the Zoning Officer (including permit approvals or denials), appeals of the issuance of enforcement notices, appeals from erosion and/or stormwater provisions not related to subdivision and land development, and appeals of the administration of floodplain ordinances. The purpose of the ZHB is to assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance.



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What makes the ZHB “quasi-judicial”?

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Public hearings in front of the ZHB must adhere to very specific procedures set by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Public notices of the hearing are mailed to properties within 500 feet, the notice is published in a local paper, and the notice must be posted on the property. The ZHB is also required to keep a stenographic record of the hearing. The ZHB will take sworn testimony from parties of the application and can accept evidence on the record. A party of the application is any participant who has standing to be “affected” by the application. Typically, you must own a property in close proximity to be considered a party in the hearing. The municipality is always a party to every application. The ZHB has the right to grant or deny party status during the hearing. Once granted party status you have

the right to cross-examine, bring your own witnesses, and present evidence. Formal rules of evidence do not apply and the ZHB has the authority to exclude evidence that is irrelevant, repetitious, or immaterial. Once a verbal decision is voted on, the ZHB has 45 days to issue a written decision to the parties. If an affected party disagrees with the decision of the ZHB, they have 30 days from the issuance of the written decision to appeal that decision to the Court of Common Pleas.

“The purpose of the Zoning Hearing Board is to assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance.”

A Homeowner’s Guide To Stormwater

The Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

What is Stormwater Runoff?

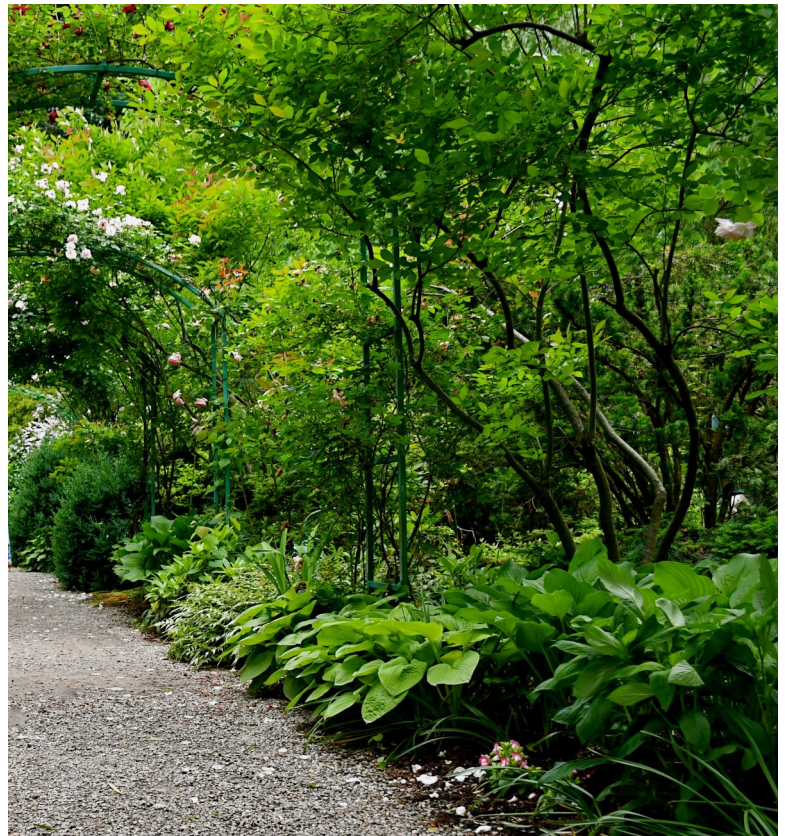
Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or snow-melt) that flows across the land. Stormwater may infiltrate into soil, discharge directly into streams, water bodies, or drain inlets, or evaporate back into the atmosphere. In the natural environment, most precipitation is absorbed by trees and plants or permeates into the ground, which results in stable stream flows and good water quality.

Things are different in the built environment. Rain that falls on a roof, driveway, patio or lawn runs off the surface more rapidly, picking up pollutants as it goes. This stormwater runoff flows into streams or storm drains that discharge into waterways.

Why Can Stormwater Runoff Be a Problem?

Poorly managed stormwater runoff can cause a host of problems. These include:

- **Flooding.** As stormwater runs off roofs, driveways and lawns, large volumes quickly reach streams, causing them to rise quickly and flood, instead of a natural slow and steady water rise. When more impervious surfaces exist, flooding occurs more rapidly and can be more severe, resulting in damage to property and people.
- **Pollution.** Stormwater running over roofs, drive-



ways, roads and lawns will pick up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, dirt/sediment, trash, and animal waste. These pollutants “hitch a ride” with the stormwater and flow untreated into local streams, polluting our waters.

- **Stream Bank Erosion.** When stormwater flows into streams at unnaturally high volumes and speeds, the

power of these flows can cause severe stream bank erosion. Eroding banks can eat away at streamside property, create dangerous situations, and damage natural habitat for fish and other aquatic life. This erosion is another source of sediment pollution in streams.

- Threats to Human Health. Stormwater runoff can carry many toxic pollutants, such as toxic metals, organic compounds, bacteria, and viruses. Polluted stormwater can contaminate drinking water supplies and hamper recreational opportunities as well as threaten fish and other aquatic life.

Best Stormwater Management Practices

Rain Garden	Native Meadow
Riparian Buffer	Pervious Pavers
Tree Planting	Rain Barrel

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MANAGE STORMWATER RUNOFF?

As a homeowner, you can help avoid the problems associated with stormwater runoff by:

1. Reducing impervious areas so that the rain soaks into the ground.
2. Planting native trees and plants which help infiltrate stormwater and increase evaporation and transpiration.
3. Managing stormwater on-site with rain gardens, rain barrels and similar practices.
4. Following healthy lawn care practices such as:
 - Maintain a dense vegetative cover of turf grass to re-

- duce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrients.
 - Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains.
 - Set mower height at 3 inches or taller.
 - Do not apply fertilizer within 15 to 20 feet of a stream, pond or other water body and consider managing this zone as a perennial planting, meadow, grass buffer or forest buffer.
5. Doing many small things, you have a big impact on improving stormwater management.

Fire Marshal News

By Randy Teschner

There shall be no burning in New Britain Township as per the Township Fire Code Ordinance #2019-04-01.



307.1 General: No person shall kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning in the Township, except for recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Bonfires are specifically prohibited.

307.2 Prohibited open burning: Any and all open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous in the opinion of the fire code official, such as periods of high winds, drought, or weather inversion. Moreover, the outdoor burning of any rubbish, garbage, or trash is strictly prohibited.

307.3 Extinguishment authority: Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, is not allowed under this code, or a required permit for such burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

307.4 Location: The location for open burning shall not be less than 25 feet from any property line or public right-of-way and shall comply with the following:

307.4.1 Recreational fires: Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

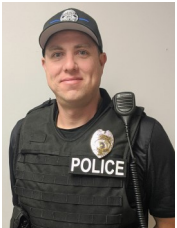
307.4.2 Portable outdoor fireplaces: Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 15 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.5 Attendance: Open burning, recreational fires, and operating portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

New Britain Township Police Department News

by Chief Robert Scafidi

All our recently hired officers bring a wealth of varied experiences to the New Britain Township Police Force. They welcome the opportunity to serve you, the citizens of New Britain Township.



OFFICER DANIEL GONZALEZ

Officer Gonzalez is the newest Police Officer serving New Britain Township. He has a wide range of experience having previously served with the Philadelphia Police Department, prior to which he served with the United States Border Patrol. Officer Gonzalez is a proud United States Marine Corps Veteran who served in the Iraq war. Please help the Township welcome Officer Daniel Gonzalez!

Featured New Britain Township Police Officers

OFFICER KATE PEFFALL has been with the New Britain Township Police Department for three years. She is a former Philadelphia Police Officer who grew up in Montgomery County, and comes from a law enforcement family. She is a crisis negotiator with the Central Bucks Special Response Team which is a multi-jurisdictional agency comprised of twenty one municipalities served by 18 police departments. The CBSRT responds to high-risk incidents in central and upper Bucks County.

OFFICER ALEX KOMATICK has also been with the New Britain Township Police Department for three years. He was recruited by New Britain Township from the Allentown Police Department. Officer Komatick grew up in New Britain Township and is also a member of the Central Bucks Special Response Team.

CORPORAL MARK DUNCAN is a Patrol Supervisor with the New Britain Township Police Department. Corporal Duncan recently graduated from the prestigious school of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. Corporal Duncan is also a member of the Central Bucks Special Response Team, he is a United States Marine Corps Veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns, where he served as an Infantry Squad Leader.

CORPORAL RICH MICHIE was recently welcomed back from being deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the United States Coast Guard. Corporal Michie serves as Chief Petty Officer with the U.S. Coast Guard and this was his second deployment to the Navy Base in Cuba.

Contacting the New Britain Township Police Department

- The Police Emergency Phone Number is 911.
- Please do not email the Police Department to report a crime or a situation that requires immediate action.
- The Non-Emergency dispatch phone number to Bucks County Communications is 215-328-8508.
- The New Britain Township Police Station Non-Emergency Phone Number which is manned by clerical staff during business hours from Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays) is 215-822-1910.



IMPORTANT POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

Bucks County
District Attorney's Office
215-348-6344

Network of Victim
Assistance
1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place
1-800-220-8116

Crimes Against Older Adults
1-800-490-8505

Bucks County
Office of Consumer Protection
215-348-6060

Township Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted (please confirm prior to attending). Agenda for meetings are made available on the Township Website several days prior to the Meeting. Residents can call the Township Administrative Office in regard to questions about any Agenda item at 215-822-1391. If a meeting is cancelled, a notice will be posted on the Township website at newbritaintownship.org.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
First and Third Monday of each Month

PLANNING COMMISSION
Second and Fourth Tuesday of each Month

ZONING HEARING BOARD
Third Thursday of each Month



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Third Tuesday of each Month

VETERANS COMMITTEE
First Wednesday of every other Month
(Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.)

PROUD OF OUR PAST. PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE.

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[Twitter.com/newbritaintwp1](https://twitter.com/newbritaintwp1)



Important Township Information

GOVERNMENT

Township Administration Office	215-822-1391
Police Non-Emergency	215-822-1910
Public Works Department	215-822-3698
Tax Collector - Nicole Percetti	215-822-2930
Keystone Collections Group	1-888-328-0565
Voters' Registration Office	215-348-6163
Bucks County Courthouse	215-348-6000

SCHOOLS

Central Bucks South H.S.	267-893-3000
Central Bucks West H.S.	267-893-2500
Tohickon Middle School	267-893-3300
Unami Middle School	267-893-3400
Pine Run Elementary	267-893-4450
Butler Elementary	267-893-4250
St. Jude's Catholic School	215-822-9225
Plumstead Christian School	215-822-0187
North Penn School District	215-368-0400

LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS

Lenape Valley Recreational Council
lenapevalleyrc.org





NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP
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Correspondence/Comments concerning this Newsletter should be mailed to:

New Britain Township

207 Park Avenue
Chalfont, PA 18914
215-822-1391

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William B. Jones, III, *Chair*
Helen B. Haun, *Vice Chair*
Gregory T. Hood, *Member*
Cynthia M. Jones, *Member*
MaryBeth McCabe, Esq., *Member*

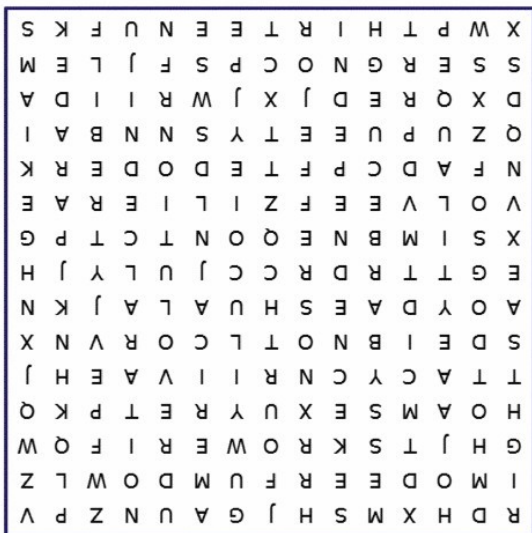
Township Administration Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday

Township Meeting Information is posted at the Administration Building and can also be found on our website at newbritaintownship.org.

NATION
PARADE
REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
THIRTEEN
UNITED

FIREWORKS
FOURTH
HOTDOGS
INDEPENDENCE
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JULY
LIBERTY

ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
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EQUALITY



July Fourth Word Search



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I SPY
4th of July