DTPC MINUTES

Dickinson Township Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Dickinson Township Meeting Room
6:00 pm

Attendance

Commission Members:
Chairperson Elizabeth Grant (Phone), Vice Chairman Justin Smith, Secretary Beth Kikla, Mark Hockley, John Aigeldinger, Robert "Bob" Line, Jared Abell

Staff:
Township Manager Jill Lovett, Secretary/Treasurer Grace Hogue, Public Works Director Nate Bragunier, Zoning/Codes Officer Ryan Hoover, Solicitor Matt Boyer

Absent:
Jason Reichard, Engineer

Visitors: None

CALL TO ORDER

The October 14, 2026 Dickinson Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Vice Chairman Smith followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Dickinson Township is asking residents to sign up for its mass text alert system. This system is used to alert residents of things such as emergency situations, road closures, trash delays, etc. To sign up please go to the Township website and click on the image where it says Mass Text Alert Signup. Fill out the form online and hit submit.

b. Reminder that Dickinson Township is seeking volunteers for several open positions (Planning Commission for 2027, Park & Recreation Committee and Alternate on Zoning Hearing Board) on various Boards and Committees. If interested, please contact Jill Lovett at manager@dickinsontownship.org if you are interested.

c. A reminder that more information about our community can be found on our website at **www.dickinsontownship.org**

AGENDA APPROVAL

Bob Line motioned to approve the October 14, 2026 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mark Hockley and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are multiple suggestions for changes on the minutes. Per staff recommendation, the minutes for November 9, 2026 have been tabled to be approved at the next meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Grant shared that the Cumberland Conservation Collaborative is hosting a Water Form on October 21st and she will pass the registration link along to the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PLAN REVIEW - None

NEW BUSINESS

Beth Kikla welcomed Jared Abell and introduced him as the chairman of the Environmental Advisory Council. She asked if he could give an update from the council. Jared Abell shared there are many things the council is working on, while the main item is FPR's. The next step is to create a rule making committee and process. This will help move things forward after the bill was passed earlier this year. There has been discussion on how the public and residents can report complaints on FPRs.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT – There are two potential plans for next month. Ryan Hoover shared a few more details of what would be brought before the commission.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEERS REPORT – None

PARK & RECREATION LIAISON REPORT – Manager Lovett shared the Fishing Derby event went very well and the Christmas tree lighting event is scheduled for December 5, 2026 from 5-6pm.

Chairperson Grant reported on the Historic Trails event through Friends of Barnitz Mill. There were 2 weekends of this event, and it was held to provide history behind the mill and other historic stations.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORT – Bob Line expressed his appreciation to Beth for her Data Center presentation both times at the Board of Supervisors meeting. He shared the board would like the planning commission should still always revisit this ordinance to keep updating and changing. Beth Kikla added the importance of just not completing the ordinance and moving one. There is still further work and updates to be done eventually to this ordinance. There were further suggestions to also jump into maybe looking into the comprehensive plan and approaching this after all the discussions of the data center.

Manager Lovett introduced Nate Bragunier as the new public works director.

OLD BUSINESS

a. *Review and Approval of the amendment to the Zoning Code for Outdoor Shooting Range (Public and Private)*

Solicitor Boyer explained the new changes under section 2. He mentioned the need to adjust some of the specific restrictions, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. Bob Line shared his disagreement with the changes to sections C-I. He provided his suggestions to look further into the fact this isn't something that can be enforceable by the Township. Chairperson Grant referenced the main part of the zoning ordinance, which has separate sections per private or public, but this

section applies to both public and private shooting ranges. Solicitor Boyer added that this ordinance amendments would not go along with for any existing shooting ranges. Chairperson Grant also clarified there are no enforcements by the Township within the ordinance. Bob Line suggested the need to make further adjustments to make things clearer so there is no confusion with whether it is for private or public ranges. He asked how someone would provide evidence for it being an established gun range. Solicitor Boyer explained there could be adjustments made to clarify it is referencing both public and private gun range. Bob Line asked if it would be possible to add language to specify that this ordinance is only for new gun ranges and not for gun ranges that already exist. Ryan Hoover clarified that if a gun range exists before this amendment, it would be a "grandfathered situation". The only way he could enforce anything with this amendment is for any new gun ranges. In order to enforce anything with the ordinance, it needs to be according to whatever ordinance was enacted at that time of gun range establishment. Bob Line continued to add that the Township doesn't have the ability to be an authority to enforce some of these rulings. There was further discussion as to how a gun range is established and enforced. Solicitor Boyer specified most ways to enforce is after a complaint is received. There was agreement at the difficulty the Township would have in enforcing these items. Solicitor Boyer explained that these are technically not enforceable by the Township. There is especially no way to enforce the sound range, however the time could be enforced.

Beth Kikla asked for clarification on where this amendment would take place. This would be an amendment from this specific section of the zoning ordinance. Beth Kikla further asked if there was something like a deer stand on someone's property that would still be specified as an outdoor shooting range. Solicitor Boyer answered that according to the definition of the shooting range, anything with shooting would be considered a range. There are certainly more rules for gun ranges but they are moreso specified through the Game Commission.
Nate Bragunier asked if there was any part of the ordinance to enforce signage for gun ranges. Chairperson Grant referenced the section of the ordinance that does provide these rules for the shooting ranges for private and public. Ryan Hoover continued to explain the only way the Township can enforce anything is following the ordinance that was enacted before or during the establishment of the gun range.

Jared Abell asked if there could be a clarification of why this ordinance was originally brought to the planning commission to make these amendments. Manager Lovett explained there were some complaints received for a current gun range, and Ryan Hoover found the need to amend the ordinance to assist with future issues. Bob Line suggested taking out section C to make things clearer. Another thought would be to specify if this addresses public and private. Chairperson Grant referenced there is a whole section of C in the ordinance. What is before the commission is just the amendment section, so Bob Line is referring to not adding the suggested amendments to the current ordinance. There was discussion and requests to provide more clarity in section B, especially in the parenthesis section.

There is currently only one shooting range in the township and this amendment would not be enforcing anything with them since they are existing.

After some discussion, the commission agreed to table this ordinance as there should be more clarity and the members would like to review the whole zoning ordinance to clarify these items. Vice Chairman Smith requested the members do research further into the zoning ordinance as a whole.

Beth Kikla motioned to table these Ordinance Amendments for Outdoor Shooting Range for further revisions to be done. The motion was seconded by Bob Line and passed unanimously.

b. Review information on Rural Event Venues & Agritainment ordinance material

There was ordinance examples provided from other townships. Jared Abell asked for clarification of why this was brought forward. Ryan Hoover explained there is currently nothing on this topic and there has been multiple times where residents has made changes to their property for the venues. There are multiple items that aren't clear and there is a need to enact a section for this area. Ryan Hoover shared he believes this would be beneficial for anyone taking action with these changes to their property. Beth Kikla asked, regarding the use not provided, has there been any other requests for particular venues and barns. Ryan Hoover answered there has been multiple questions, besides just a barn and venue request. Beth Kikla stressed the importance of coming up with all kinds of possible structures that residents could request through this ordinance. Nate Bragunier said another structure is greenhouse conversions, so there should be an ordinance to assist with the possible issues for the venue. Ryan Hoover agreed the need to specify an event venue, not just a structure so there's confusion.

Beth Kikla clarified the need to draft something and move forward from there. She asked if anyone would be interested in diving deeper into this ordinance to begin work on it and bring it back to the planning commission.

Jared Abell asked what further concerns are caused from these event venues. Chairperson Grant shared there could be issues with parking, placement, events, noise, and lighting, etc for these events. There are several things to consider to assist with the rules and ordinance for these venues.

Mark Hockley volunteered to work on this ordinance, along with Chairperson Grant and Jared Abell.

ADJOURNMENT

Beth Kikla motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 P.M. The motion was seconded by Bob Line and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Hogue

Grace Hogue
Secretary/Treasurer

