

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Cherrytree Township Planning Commission
Special Meeting
January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors, along with the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission, was held on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Dave Zdanko, and Rob Kellogg, Supervisors, Ron Stewart and Jamey Miller, Planning Commission members, and Christine Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer.

Call to Order

Jim Waugh called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Prayer

Jim Waugh led those in attendance in a moment of prayer.

Public Comment

The purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on Resolution #21-41, which is a resolution to adopt the Venango County Natural Heritage Inventory, as prepared by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program for Venango County in 2010, as and for a part of the Cherrytree Township Comprehensive Plan. Don Deliman expressed concern regarding the effect this could have on development, other than solar development, within the township. He asked the Supervisors if the township would be shutting out other forms of development, for example, a new building for the Cherrytree Township VFD. Jim Waugh told Don Deliman that Resolution #21-41 would only affect large projects. Don Deliman also questioned the need for urgency in passing Resolution #21-41 since a moratorium on solar development is currently in place. Jim Waugh noted that he wants to protect the rural way of life for Cherrytree Township residents by protecting the land and keeping it agricultural. Don Deliman said that he heard Ripley, New York stands to gain a significant tax revenue increase by allowing solar development and asked if Cherrytree Township would see an increase as well. Jim Waugh said that the solar companies tell municipalities that the tax revenue will increase, when, in reality, it will not. The solar panels will be considered “personal property” by the Venango County Assessment Office and will be deemed untaxable. Jamey Miller, Planning Commission member, agreed with Jim Waugh and said that he was told the same thing. He said even though the panels will be connected to the ground, they are not buildings and will not be taxed. Jamey Miller noted that, if a property changes from an agricultural use to a commercial use, the township could see a small increase, but there is no guarantee.

Administrative Action

Resolution #21-41 – Adopt Venango County Natural Heritage Inventory

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #21-41, the Venango County Natural Heritage Inventory, as prepared by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program for Venango County in 2010, as and for a part of the Cherrytree Township Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer