

LONG LOG CABIN

By Sandy Mansmann, Coordinator, Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation

Anyone traveling along Sugar Run Road, perhaps on the way to Mingo Creek Park, should have noticed the absence of the c. 1800 log buildings. Last year, after weeks of carefully recording the structures, (Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation and Boy Scouts of America Troop #1005), and months of dismantling, (Jeff Pleta & Sons), the log buildings have been relocated, (Washington County Parks crew), to Mingo Park's Boy Scout Camping area.

The next steps are for these log structures to be reconstructed, tentatively scheduled for the fall. In the meantime, funds need to be raised to complete the work. Having these historically important Nottingham Township buildings saved in the township is a major accomplishment.

There are a few other log cabin/houses in Nottingham, mostly disguised under layers of sheathing. Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation (WCH&LF) would like to collect the history of these for permanent records. Should you know about any of them, please contact Sandy Mansmann, WCH&LF Coordinator, at: S_MANN41@HOTMAIL.COM or call 724-413-9921.

We are slowly building a collection of photos and artifacts to be included in a historical display at the Nottingham Township Municipal Building in the future.



SPRING & SUMMER BUILDING PROJECTS

Summer is fast approaching and so are all the construction projects we've been putting on hold throughout the winter.

The Township phones are already ringing off the hook with building questions from residents and contractors. The number one questions always asked is "do I need a permit for my project?" Chances are that you will need some type of approval from the Township. To what degree will depend on your project. Hopefully, this article can help answer some basic questions about your particular project and start you on your way.

Fencing – All fencing will require a zoning certificate. Zoning certificates deal with the placement of your project. Privacy fencing can be up to 6' along the side and rear yards of your home. All fencing located in the required front yard of your home can be no taller than 4'. Remember, we ask that you allow 1' on your neighbor's side of the fence so that you can maintain their side of your fence; but fences may go to the property line. All zoning certificates cost \$50.

Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs – Above ground and in-ground pools, (including hot tubs), will require permitting. Included for pool inspections are zoning, building and electrical. Above ground pools that are at least 48" above grade do not require a fence, but must have a ladder with retractable steps that lock. In-ground pools are required

to be fenced. The fence may be placed and included on the same permit as the pool. Pools must be in the required yard setback which varies by zoning district.

Cost for an above ground pool permit \$129

Cost for an in-ground pool permit \$154

All hot tubs will require an electrical permit (minimum \$60).

Decks – Deck permitting will include zoning and building authorization and total \$114. If your deck is no taller than 36" from the grade of the ground only zoning will be required at \$50.

Sheds – All sheds will require a zoning certificate at \$50. Sheds must be no closer than 10' from any rear or side lot line.

Roofing, siding, windows – No authorization from the Township will be required to redo your roof, siding, or replacement windows and doors, as long as no structural changes to the residence occur.

This article may not have addressed your particular project. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Remember, there are exceptions to every rule and projects may vary for one reason or another. Do not hesitate to contact the Township at 724-348-5622 with your individual inquiries.

Inside This Issue

<i>Long Log Cabin</i>	Cover	<i>Animal Control</i>	3
<i>Spring & Summer Projects</i>	Cover	<i>House Hazardous Waste (HHW)</i>	4
<i>A Message from the Chairman</i>	2 & 3	<i>Pavillion Rental</i>	4
<i>Let it Rain and Then Some!</i>	3	<i>Help Wanted</i>	4

Message from the Chairman

By Peter V. Marcoline, Jr. Chairman, Board of Supervisors

CASTLEWOOD FIELDS PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (PRD)

Final approval was made by the Board of Supervisors on the Castlewood Fields PRD on February 5, 2018 subject to certain conditions being satisfied. Included in those conditions was that a Developer's Agreement be received for review prior to any development; and the "Agreement" be signed by the Board of Supervisors and Castlewood Fields PRD prior to any development.

All information and plans for the proposed Castlewood Field PRD can be viewed at the Township Office, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING FACILITY – REOPENED MARCH 15, 2018

The Township Recycling Facility has been closed since January 1, 2018 but reopened on March 15, 2018. The Township Recycling Facility is open for use by all Washington County residents but primarily used by the residents of Nottingham Township. During weekdays, Township employees run the compactor to keep the recycling bin open, but on the weekends, volunteers from the Recreation Board, as well as other residents of the Township, run the compactor.

When the storage container is full, which is usually when there is approximately 5 - 7 tons of recyclables, the container is transported to Neville Island at a cost to the Township. Since the price of the recyclables has significantly dropped, the costs of transporting the recyclables to Neville Island exceeds the amount received by the Township for the recyclables. Now, pursuant to an arrangement with Washington County, the Township receives grant money to offset costs which had been previously borne by Nottingham Township residents. The Board of Supervisors refused to allow the facility to be used by all residents of Washington County until this arrangement was made.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

At the February 19, 2018 meeting, the Board of Supervisors appointed Rich Yosi as the new Emergency Management Coordinator for Nottingham Township replacing Clyde Wilhelm. Clyde Wilhelm held the position since March of 2008. More recently, Clyde has taken on many responsibilities at Swissvale Borough as their current Borough Manager and Fire Chief. We know firsthand that Clyde has all the experience and qualifications necessary to take great care of Swissvale Borough.

Mr. Yosi comes to Nottingham Township with his own unique set of qualifications to be the Nottingham Township Emergency Management Coordinator. Rich is currently the Second Captain of the North Strabane Fire Department and has been an active member there for over nine (9) years. He is trained in all aspects of Emergency Management and will work closely with the Township. Rich will also be attending the upcoming Local Emergency Management Coordinator Meeting being held at the Washington County Department of Public Safety at the end of March. The purpose of this meeting is for all municipalities to update their emergency operations plan.

The North Strabane Fire Department is one (1) of three (3) fire departments that service Nottingham Township. North Strabane Fire Department, along with Valley Inn and Finleyville Volunteer Fire Departments, are extremely well run fire departments which have a great rapport with Township Officials and residents.

PEDDLING, SOLICITING AND TRANSIENT BUSINESS ORDINANCE

As spring approaches, Township residents can expect to be contacted by various companies seeking to sell their products and/or services. The Township adopted the Peddling, Soliciting and Transient Business Ordinance to require any company or individual wishing to solicit business to register and obtain a permit from the Township office.

Continued . . . on page 3

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Kym Seecret



Once a solicitor receives a permit from the Township, they will be required to wear a placard displaying their picture and permit information from the Township. With this ordinance in place, we can protect residents, so in the event a problem should develop, the Township has a record of the solicitor and how we can contact them. Remember, no solicitor or salesman is permitted to solicit on property that displays a "No Soliciting" sign visible from the road.

Always exercise caution when opening your door to anyone you do not know or expect!

BURNING OF WOOD PRODUCTS

As the warmer months approach, many residents will dispose of wood products by burning, which is a permitted activity throughout the Township with some minor restrictions. A wood fire is not allowed to burn or smolder without a responsible adult being present at all times. All fires must be extinguished when burning is complete. Residents who engage in burning wood products are asked to consider their neighbors when burning as smoke may adversely affect nearby residents, particularly in the densely populated subdivisions of the Township.



LET IT RAIN AND THEN SOME!

Pennsylvania has over 86,000 miles of rivers and streams throughout the Commonwealth. These waterways have certainly made themselves known lately with the excessive rain. If anyone has driven along Sugar Run and Mingo Creek roads, or through Mingo Park recently, you have certainly seen the destruction and mayhem that flooding creeks and streams can do.

The rush and overabundance of water can tear-up roads, wash away shoulders and stone along roadways, rip-out full-size trees, carry debris for miles and overwhelm storm sewers. After continued rain for days, the ground can no longer hold not even one more drop of water. Everything has become saturated causing grief and frustration for all.

Many homeowners in the Township do live along streams. Believe it or not, there are a couple of things you can do to lessen the impact a flooding stream or creek can have on your property without special permitting from the DEP. According to the DEP you are allowed to remove non-native material, such as litter and construction debris from the stream, banks and riparian areas. A riparian area is that area along the bank of a creek or stream. You may also remove woody debris, such as trees, logs, or brush, from the stream while standing in the stream (this includes the use of hand-held equipment, such as chainsaws, but no heavy equipment). Remember, if you need to cut a tree which has fallen into a stream, leave the stump. The stump helps to stabilize the bank of the creek. It is even permitted to plant native species of trees and plants on streambanks to help with stabilization.

Cleaning out a culvert or inlet box located near your home is helpful! This may actually deter the water from running into your home, garage or basement, or hold it off until the road crew can arrive. When the area is being deluged by water it is all hands on deck. The Township road crew is already working around the clock taking care of all forms of water emergencies, such as cleaning-up mud slides and fallen trees onto roads, barricading roads that have partially washed away, and on and on. Keep in mind that the road crew does clean the culverts and inlet boxes several times a year to keep them open, but it doesn't take long for a culvert or inlet box to clog in heavy rain from loose and floating debris.

Always remember - never attempt to clean any culvert or inlet box if it will, in anyway, put you in harm's way or be dangerous!

BARKING DOGS

It's a fact of doggy life, and to the humans who own them, that all dogs bark. However, when a nuisance barker disturbs the peaceful environment of someone else, it is time to put a stop to the racket. Remember, not everyone loves our dogs like we do and the continual barking can become a nightmare for others.

If you put your dog outside try to be aware or tuned into their barking. Bringing a dog inside will usually stop disruptive barking. Most people can tolerate barking if it comes at them in small intervals, but leaving a dog(s) outdoors for frequent, long and excessive barking or howling to disturb the comfort of others residing in the vicinity where your dog(s) are kept, can be a problem.

We all have a right to enjoy our homes and property. We all sleep at different times, have children that nap, company that visits, become ill,

or just want to enjoy our porch or deck without the chronic, non-stop barking of a nearby dog. We need to be considerate of each other. If you work please do not leave your dog outdoors all day to bark. If you do work, or need to be away for an extended period, maybe you can make arrangements with a neighbor to let your dog(s) out periodically. The majority of people understand that dogs bark, but to bark to the point of annoyance to your neighbor is another thing.

Should you have an issue with a chronically barking or howling dog(s), to the point your quality of life is disrupted, **contact the Animal Control Officer, Kym Seccret at 724-503-4417.** Kym can also be contacted to catch any stray dog that may be running at large.



Wanted: Recreation Board Member

Are you looking for a creative outlet? Want to share your talents? The Nottingham Township Recreation Board is looking for new members. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest or contact the Township Office.

Recreation Board's

Annual Car Show & Touch a Truck!



SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH

10:00 A.M. ~ 2:00 P.M.

Free to the public.

All cars and motorcycles welcome. (Donation requested for entries.)

*****Trophies, Prizes, D.J., 50/50, Food*****



Home Pick-up for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

This is a service that is included in the most recent contract with Waste Management for Nottingham Township's residential garbage collection customers. For difficult to recycle household items, such as TVs, electronics, paint cans, oil, batteries, and the like. Call: Waste Management Call Center at 1-800-449-7587 to set up a collection appointment at your door!

Be sure to tell them that you are a resident of Nottingham Township in WASHINGTON County!

They will give you specific instruction on what to do with your items and will schedule a pick-up date.



Nottingham Township Recreation Board Plans Roadside Clean-Up Day

Everyone wants to live, work, and play in a clean and green community...and it's up to all of us to make that possible. Let's improve the overall quality of life for us all.

Join other residents from Nottingham Township in cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides. Anyone can help!

When: Saturday, April 7, 2018 ~ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Together we can make a difference!

If all of us would pick-up one piece of litter a day in front of our house, walking down the street, hiking, playing in the park, or anywhere— it would enhance Nottingham Township's rustic beauty and charm.

Bonfire - Saturday, SEPT. 22nd
Halloween Trail - Saturday, OCT. 20th

(for these upcoming Recreation Board Events)

SAVE THE DATE!



Have an upcoming graduation or family reunion?

Don't forget about our large pavilion nestled in the heart of Sherwood Park. It can accommodate 100 people, has charcoal grills, electrical outlets and running water. Basketball court, tennis court and ballfield are available as a first come, first served basis. Pavilion Rental fee is \$75.

Make your reservation today!



NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP
909 Sugar Run Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VENETIA, PA 15367
PERMIT #28