

Clean-Up Day

The Nottingham Township Recreation Board is once again sponsoring a Road-side Clean-Up Day! Volunteers are needed to help keep our community beautiful. Arrive at 8:30 for coffee and donuts. Clean up begins at 9 a.m. on local roads. Return for pizza and beverages at noon. Vests, gloves and garbage bags will be provided.



Where: Nottingham Township Municipal Building

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015

Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon

Nottingham Township Recreation Board Annual Car Show



The Nottingham Township Recreation Board is proud to host their 8th Annual Car Show on Saturday, June 20, 2015. The show will be held at the Township Municipal Complex from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the popular DJ, Mike Greci. The show will feature specialty cars, trucks and motorcycles from throughout the area. Donations are requested for an entry fee for all vehicles, but spectators enter for free! Something new this year will be a “Touch a Truck” event for children.

Food vendors will be on site and everyone attending will be eligible for door prizes! A 50/50 raffle will be held, with proceeds being donated to a local charity. Awards will be given to various categories of cars or trucks and motorcycles. We know that there are quite a few custom and specialty vehicles stuffed away in garages throughout the community. Why not bring those vehicles out and join the fun? Bring your folding chairs, blankets and come enjoy the day! Don’t forget, the day is Saturday June 20th.



WE’LL BE LOOKIN’ FOR YA!

Mark your Calendars

Bonfire!
Saturday, September 26, 2015
6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Haunted Halloween Trail!
Saturday, October 24, 2015
2 – 4 p.m.



PRIMARY ELECTION DAY



TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.

If you are unsure of your voting location, or validity of your registration, contact the Washington County Elections Office at 724-228-6750. The last day to register is April 20, 2015.

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History around the Township – Issac Sumney Log Cabin

By Sandy Mansmann, Historian and Coordinator of the Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation

Nottingham Township and its residents have been presented with a unique and great opportunity to preserve an important piece of their history.

In 1972, Mariana Long purchased a double log cabin on Sugar Run Road that she preserved and restored. Over the years, though she lived elsewhere, Mariana shared this historic site with many individuals and groups – women's gardening groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops and school children. She later moved full-time to another historic property adjoining the cabins. Eventually, the ownership and care of the site came under the stewardship of her son Phil and his family. In Mariana's honor and according to her wishes, the family is donating the cabins to be preserved as a part of Nottingham's history.

A professional company has agreed to disassemble and relocate the structure to a select spot on Township property six-tenths of a mile away from its current location. While the buildings are being donated, the move and eventual reconstruction will come at a price. The initial move will cost approximately \$10,000, of which the first \$5,000 has been donated anonymously by a Township resident. A challenge is being made to other Township residents to donate whatever they can to this important cause. Grants will be sought for the eventual completion cost of an additional \$40,000. No Township monies will be used to fund this project.

Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation, of which Mariana was a long-time member, has been working with Township officials to accomplish this feat, with the eventual use of the Sumney Log House as an educational center to focus on local history and the arts. In the early 1800s, Isaac Sumney used the property as a manufacturing site for earthenware pottery that continued under the ownership of a descendant, David Sumney, into the late 1860s. The move of the log home, anticipated for Spring, is hoped to be an educational experience itself!



Issac Sumney Log c. 1800, built in two sections

If you would like to donate to this important restoration project please make your check out to Nottingham Township and send it to 909 Sugar Run Road, Eighty Four, PA 15330. In the memo section of the check please write "Log Cabin". In the very near future, the Township website will have a PayPal link for anyone wishing to donate by credit card. Remember, no donation is too small. Help preserve Nottingham's history!

When Supervisors Make Unpopular Decisions

In light of activities in the Township over the past 10 years, the Board of Supervisors has been faced with some extremely controversial issues. Issues that have been before the Board in recent years include, advancement of the Beltway through Nottingham; not one but four strip mines; an application for a deep coal mine; pipelines for transporting gas; and last, but not least, approximately six gas wells ready to take hold throughout the Township.

Quiet, rural Nottingham Township has turned into a prime area, rich in natural resources, for companies to come and harvest these resources. The argument has always been that the Township Supervisors should just say no to these types of land uses. If only it was that easy, right?

When making land use decisions, township supervisors must comply with a handful of state laws, including the granddaddy of them all, the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), which was enacted in 1968 to guide local officials as they develop their communities.

And while the MPC, the courts, and the legislature have given township supervisors a certain amount of latitude and flexibility in making local land use decisions, they have been very firm about one thing: **Townships with Zoning Ordinances must allow for every use.**

In other words, townships must set aside land for such necessary things as homes and businesses and such controversial things as strip mines, deep mines, cell phone towers, landfills and on. And no matter how much residents may protest, township supervisors have very few options when faced with an unpopular use. If the applicant complies with state and local laws, the township must allow it.

Township residents may not want some of these uses in their community, but the courts have determined that each of them are legitimate uses. Unless a township wants to wind up in court, spending valuable tax dollars because it sidestepped a state law, it cannot ban or say no to these businesses or industries. Unfortunately, this is difficult for residents to always understand, but townships must follow state and federal laws like anyone else, or face the consequences.

The Nottingham Township Board of Supervisors will continue to work with their residents to secure the least amount of impact from these industries and uses as possible.

Residents are always encouraged to attend the open public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and to take part in the discussion being held. Board meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month starting at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise advertised.

Nottingham Has A New Website!

Nottingham has been working with Moore Consulting Group of McMurray, PA to overhaul our website. We're still a work in progress, but we hope you will find many interesting and useful items on the site.

Need a building permit? Wonder who your state reps are?

What fun things does the Recreation Board have in store for us this year?

www.nottinghamtwp.com!

A Message from the Chairman

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

Severance Tax v. Impact Fee on Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania

Reported in the Fall Edition of this Newsletter that the Nottingham Township Board of Supervisors opposes any Amendments to Act 13 of 2012 which would reduce the amount of unconventional gas well fees, i.e., impact fees, to the Township or any other municipality affected by unconventional gas exploration activities. The Washington County Association of Township Officials adopted a similar Resolution. This was done during the gubernatorial campaign between the then Governor, Tom Corbett, and Candidate, Tom Wolf; the former opposed any such elimination or reduction and the latter who endorsed the imposition of a severance tax, but who gave only sketchy details of the plan during his campaign.

Tom Wolf won the election and is now Governor. In the recent past, Governor Wolf has put forth a plan to impose a severance tax and leave in place the impact fee but it is not clear if the impact fee would remain intact or be reduced, leaving Townships, such as Nottingham, receiving less in impact fees than it presently does.

Any amendment to Act 13 would have to be approved by the Pennsylvania legislature. It is not clear exactly what the monies from a severance tax would be used for, but it is clear that if there is a corresponding reduction in the impact fee, Nottingham Township would be adversely affected.

Last year, the Township received \$73,292 in impact fees for one (1) active unconventional well. The Township currently has only the one (1) active well, but has been informed that EQT intends to drill eight (8) more wells at the Harbison site. EQT also informed the Township of its intent to drill an unconventional well on property off of Lutes Road. Rice Energy has likewise indicated an intent to drill three (3) additional wells and there is one (1) proposed well off of Gilkeson Road, planned by Range Resources. The results of this additional drilling will be an increase in the present impact fees the Township receives, which is of substantial benefit to the residents of the Township because the funds received will be used to fund Township operations rather than using income derived from taxes.

Residents are urged to contact their State Senator, Camera Bartolotta, and State Representative, Rick Saccone, and voice their opposition to the reduction of the amount or allocation of funds received for unconventional gas exploration activities, currently known as Impact Fees. You can find their contact information on the Township's website – nottinghamtwp.com. (Look at page "Useful Links" under the "Phone Numbers" tab.)

Mariner East 1 & Mariner East 2 pipelines

In 2013 and 2014, Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. substantially completed construction of the 12" Mariner East 1 pipeline in the Township, after obtaining right-of-way leases from many residents through various means. The leases gave Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. a permanent 50' right-of-way and a 25' temporary right-of-way across those particular lands. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. recently announced plans to construct a second pipeline, the Mariner East 2 pipeline, which will be a 20" pipeline to be placed in the same 50' permanent easement as the Mariner East 1 pipeline. Since the 25' temporary right-of-way leases have, for the most part, expired, Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. will be seeking a 75' temporary easement to install the new pipeline. Those residents who signed leases for the first pipeline should expect to be contacted by Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. regarding the new construction. The decision of whether or not to grant Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. the new lease is up to the landowner, but if the landowner has questions regarding his or her legal rights, they should consider contacting an attorney. Please keep in mind that the Township is not in the position of providing legal advice for this issue.

Restrictions on Parking on Township Streets and Roads and snow-blowing or dumping snow on Township Streets

Township residents are reminded that Ordinance 5 prohibits parking on Township streets during the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. It also restricts parking during snow emergencies when Township crews are plowing the streets and roads. Vehicles parked on Township streets, during these snow events, interfere with the ability of our crews to clear the snow. It can also result in damage to the vehicles by the Township trucks because of reduced visibility during a "white out" or ice which creates an unsafe and dangerous condition.

This has been a difficult winter for our crews because of the amount of snow that has continually fallen and the extreme temperatures. There does not appear to be a let up for the immediate future. The cooperation of all residents is requested to assist the Township by complying with the Ordinance in keeping our streets and roads clear. Township residents are also reminded that the home owner is responsible to ensure that their guests comply with the Ordinance.

Burning of wood products

Many residents dispose of wood products by burning, which is a permitted activity, with some restrictions, in the Township. No fire is 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 requested to consider their neighbors, as smoke may adversely affect nearby residents. This is especially significant in the densely populated plans such as Nottingham Forest, Walnut Ridge and Evanston Heights.

Planning Commission Vacancy

Nottingham Township would like to announce a vacancy on the Planning Commission Board to all interested parties. The Township Planning Commission is a five (5) member board with members being residents of the Township. The Planning Commission's function is to review subdivision/land development plans, as well as various Township applications. The Planning Commission guides residents through the required processes and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

If you would be interested in serving on this Board, please submit a brief letter to Nottingham Township no later than March 31, 2015. Should you have further questions do not hesitate to contact Sherry Hreha, Planning Commission Secretary and Township Treasurer at 724-348-5622 (Ext. 113) or shreha@comcast.net.

We will miss you Cindy!

At this time, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the entire extended family of Nottingham Township, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Cindy Spinneweber for her many years of service and dedication served on the Township Planning Commission. Cindy was appointed to the Planning Commission on December 22, 1992, giving over 22 years of service to her community. Wow!

Thank you Cindy for being an example to all of us and raising the bar!

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

NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP
909 Sugar Run Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330