

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Fall 2021 Newsletter

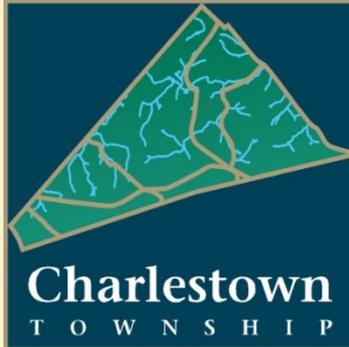
Vol. 4

Published by the Board of Supervisors

4030 Whitehorse Road, Devault, PA 19432 - (610) 240-0326

Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Visit our Website at: www.charlestown.pa.us



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Frank A. Piliero, Chairman
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chair
Susan T. Bednar, Member
Kevin R. Kuhn, Member
Hugh D. Willig, Member

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Linda M. Csete

BOARD MEETINGS

Supervisors

1ST Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

Semi-monthly 3rd Tuesday
@ 4:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory

2nd Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation

3rd Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

Scheduled as needed

Meetings are held at the Great Valley
Middle School, 255 Phoenixville
Pike Room 154, Malvern, PA

Township Office Relocating in 2022

The Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that a long term lease has been signed to move the Township Office to 11 General Warren Blvd in the Spring-Summer of 2022.



The current lease at 4030 Whitehorse Road concludes in the latter half of 2022, and that, combined with today's favorable market conditions for leasing commercial real estate provided a unique opportunity to negotiate a reasonable agreement that includes the fit-out of the new offices, which will provide functionality we've been lacking up till now to better serve our residents and businesses. This will include a public meeting room for all future meetings. The additional costs of the move, fit-out, and ongoing rent and associated monthly expenses can be managed without the need for any tax increase in 2022.

History of the Township Administrative Operations

Prior to the late 1980's, township administration was handled by one person who operated out of her own home! The population was under 3,000 at that time. The next move was to rent two rooms in the farmhouse at the Great Valley Nature Center for about a 10 year period. Population growth continued until it reached over 4,000 in the late 1990's, and we moved to our current location in the Devault Building on Whitehorse Road.

- continued on page 7

Charlestown Day Sept. 25, 2021

Beautiful weather and the desire to get out for some fresh air led to a great time for all at our annual Charlestown Day event.

The 5K race was the second largest ever, with 52 participants. Proceeds benefited the non-profit Friends of Charlestown organization.

We thank the 41 student volunteers from the GVCO Caring Hands community service group who gave a cumulative 120+ hours of their time at the event.

Here are some pictures & captions from the day, with photos by Allen Underkofler and George Csete.



The Bounce House was a hit as always



Giant bubbles from Bubbletopia made for good clean fun



Music by the Mighty Manatees provided a festive air to the day's events



The Lady on Stilts was a source of fascination for adults & kids alike



Visitors checked out the various booths set up in the Park Pavilions



Both the East Whiteland & Kimberton Fire Companies took part

Which Roads in Charlestown are State Roads?

Most potholes and hazards reported to us are on state (PennDOT) roads. We can relay your issues to Penndot if you can provide specific information on the location. You can also call the Chester County PennDOT office directly at 484-340-3201 or enter a road concern in their on-line system at:

<https://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-6/Pages/default.aspx#.VjoAkkso6Uk>.



Click on “Submit Road concern” and it walks you through the system. You receive a ticket number and follow-up email to update you on the scheduling of the repair. We can also do this for you at the township office. While pictures are helpful, the most important piece of information is to be as specific as possible with the address of the location. If an address isn’t posted nearby, PennDOT will need a description such as “northbound lane of XYZ Road approximately 200 feet before the intersection with ABC Road”.

Bodine Road between Foster & Seven Oaks Charlestown Road Church Road Coldstream Road Conestoga Rd (Rt. 401)	Foster Road Hollow Road Merlin Road Morehall Rd (Rt. 29) Newcomen Road Phoenixville Pike	Pickering Dam Road Pikeland Road Seven Oaks Road State Road (Rt. 29) Valley Hill Rd (East of Rt. 401)	Whitehorse Road Yellow Springs Road (north of Hollow Rd) Yellow Springs Rd (east of Morehall/Rt. 29)
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Charlestown Township Looking To Fill Vacant Planning Commissioner Seat



Charlestown Township is seeking candidates to fill a vacancy on the Township's Planning Commission. The initial appointment would be to fill the unexpired term for Alternate Member ending 12/31/2022.

The PC (Planning Commission) reviews all subdivision and land development plans and submits recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. In addition, they review and make recommendations on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance,

Comprehensive Plan, and any other planning matters upon request from the Supervisors.

The Commission is composed of seven members plus one alternate who serve four-year terms of office and typically meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Valley Middle School, Rm. 154, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA.

We recommend that you visit this link on our website:

<http://www.charlestown.pa.us/minutes.aspx> to review recent Planning Commission meeting minutes for a better understanding of what the position entails.

All interested and qualified candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to Township Manager Linda M. Csete at: manager@charlestown.pa.us by the end of the business day on December 3, 2021.

Interviews will be scheduled during the week of December 13th.

Energy Efficiency to Reduce Climate Change

- by Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

How does climate change affect you? Floods, fires, and loss of birdsong can remind you that we each can take actions that have an impact. One of the easiest ways to have an impact, and actually reduce the tonnage of carbon dioxide that you emit, is greater energy efficiency. Your efforts will accumulate over time, as it doesn't happen overnight. Small actions do matter.

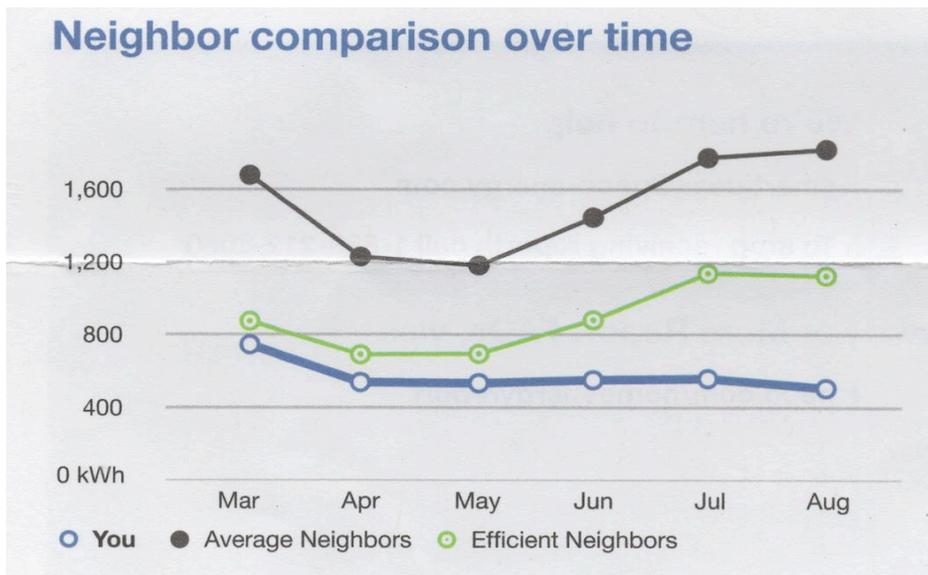
There are several carbon footprint calculators you can use to get feedback about the actions you do or could take, such as ones from the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and [Nature Conservancy](#). You also can use [calculators](#) about trees, eating habits, transportation, and other aspects of daily life. (For the paper version of this article, resources and references are underlined and found at the end of the article.)

Home [Tips](#) to Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce your Carbon Footprint (and benefit wildlife):

1. Switch off lights when you leave a room, and when natural light is enough. It is actually more relaxing to use natural light and helps to synchronize your internal clock with sunrise and sunset.
2. Choosing a green energy provider saves [1.6 tons of CO₂/year](#). All tonnage statements in this article are from metric tonne conversions to U.S. tons.
3. Shut windows when the internal temperature is in your comfort range. Systematically use curtains or blinds to control indoor temperature. To cool, close windows during the day, and open windows at night.
4. Make sure your windows and outside doors are properly sealed; adding weather stripping is easy. Make sure to cover any gaps in your home whether that be in the walls or underneath doors.
5. Check if you have enough attic insulation. Measure from the attic floor to the top of your insulation to see how much you currently have. The [EPA's Energy Star](#) and U.S. Dept. of Energy recommend between R-49 and R-60 for Pennsylvania. This means 17" to 21" of batt insulation or 13" to 16" of cellulose insulation.
6. Minimize the number of needed printers, computers, share a refrigerator with roommates, etc.
7. Did you know that many electronics use power even when turned off? – chargers, tvs, computers, printers, etc. Use a power strip to easily unplug when not in use.
8. A computer turned off uses at least 65% less energy than a computer left on or using a screen saver.
9. Only do full loads of laundry, use cooler water, and use the bright colors cycle whenever possible.
10. Try to take shorter showers to reduce the hot water you use.
11. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use [75% less energy](#) than incandescent and last up to 10 times longer. LEDs last [300 to 500 percent longer](#) than CFLs.
12. Don't run water while doing other tasks.
13. Exercise: sweep and rake instead of power blowing, carpool, walk or ride a bicycle if possible. Using our cars in a developed country produced [2.6 tons of CO₂/year](#) per person.
14. Eat a more intensive plant-based diet with much less use of meat. Your own diet will save [0.90 tons of CO₂](#) each year
15. How you can decrease your air travel? one roundtrip transatlantic flight emits [1.76 tons of CO₂](#). A long-haul flight is over 3 tons.
16. Lining your chimneys increases efficiency of fuel use.
17. Keep your night sky safe for migrating birds by turning off your outdoor lights and use only necessary indoor lights. The [Audubon](#) recommends this for homes and businesses.



18. You can achieve major climate control by planting trees that will shade your house. Below is a graph for an average size home in Charlestown in 2021 that is surrounded by deciduous trees (see PECO Home Energy Report. This home has no need for air conditioning in the summer, resulting in big decrease in energy use and cost. The trees keep this home at or under 70° most of the summer, with a maximum of a few days of 72°. PECO calculated the homeowner saved 1317 kWh from 7/16/21 to 8/15/21. In the winter, the leafless trees will let in sunlight for warming the home, which is part of passive solar heating and cooling.



References for this article:

1. <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
2. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
3. <https://sustainability.georgetown.edu/community-engagement/things-you-can-do/>
4. <https://researchguides.ben.edu/c.php?g=261743&p=1748662> (other calculators from Benedictine Univ.)
5. https://www.earthovershoot.org/file_download/inline/a7e495fb-b791-4d99-b476-ab4f64db9577 (personal actions you can take to reduce personal carbon emissions)
6. <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>
7. https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/seal_insulate/attic_air_sealing_project
8. https://www.peco.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PECO_0008_FAQ_HERv2_Web.pdf (PECO Home Energy Report)
9. Light bulbs: https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting_fans/light_bulbs/learn_about_cfls/cfls_and_mercury
10. LEDs: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/ledlighting#:~:text=Lifetime%3A%20LED%20lighting%20products%20typically,longer%20than%20an%20incandescent%20bulb.>

August Walk at Brightside

-by Esther Underhill

A small group of us, including two children, enjoyed a couple of hours exploring at Brightside Farm Park. We saw a few monarchs, cabbage whites, and sulphurs, but our Butterfly Walk soon became a Discovery Walk.

We were walking the grass trails and shared what we saw: brightly colored bugs, tiny golden bees, grasshoppers and many types of flowers. Someone had just demonstrated the difference between the sounds of a cricket and a cicada when one of the children spotted a cicada under a flower. He asked if it was alive. We gathered closely to see and were startled when the cicada said, loudly, that he was indeed alive and jumped to a more secluded spot.

Some of our best finds on a walk have been by children. They have a different view of the gifts of nature. Take a walk in the park with a child when you have the opportunity!

Township Info Emailed to your Inbox

Log on to www.charlestown.pa.us and click on the "Sign up for News-Emails" tab on the right to sign up and receive email notifications each Friday for the latest Township documents and publications.

Information Available:

Upcoming Meeting Agendas

Approved Meeting Minutes

Special Events

Charlestown Park and Brightside Farm Park

Budget & Finance

Newsletters

Recycling and Electronic or Hazardous Disposals

Project Updates

And much more!

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP SEEKS ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Charlestown Township Zoning Hearing Board is a three-member board of residents appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Currently there is a position as Alternate to be filled on the Zoning Hearing Board. If you are interested in serving in this position, please send a letter of interest to Linda Csete, Township Manager at manager@charlestown.pa.us.

The Zoning Hearing Board works with their solicitor and the Zoning Officer, and is a quasi-judicial body that reviews appeals under the Township Zoning Ordinance. Applications to the Zoning Hearing Board are submitted to the Township Office, and hearings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

The Hearing before the Zoning Board is advertised so that the public may attend. The Applicants and/or said residents may be represented by legal counsel. The Applicants, residents in opposition, if any, and the Applicants' witnesses are sworn in before presenting evidence to the Zoning Hearing Board. A Court Reporter is present to administer an oath and to record testimony and documentary evidence is presented.

At the end of the Hearing, the record is closed and no further evidence will be considered by the Zoning Hearing Board. In some cases, the Zoning Hearing Board will announce its Decision immediately following the Hearing. In other instances they will need more time to deliberate. After the Decision is announced, the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor will mail a written Decision, setting forth the Board's findings and conclusions within 45 days, and include an Order either granting or denying the relief sought by the Applicants.

Township Office Move - Continued from Page 1

During our 20+ years here, demands on our township grew along with the population, which is now 6,001 according to the 2020 census. Mandates from the state for municipalities to manage programs for recycling, stormwater management, the uniform construction code, open records, and our own expansion of programs for open space, parks, and the addition of new boards, commissions, and committees have all contributed to the need for more personnel.

Identified Needs for the Future

With nearly 40% of the township preserved from future development, the supervisors are confident that the new facilities will be able to support our needs for the foreseeable future, and by using the services of Norr Partnership to develop the office design and construction plans for the fit out, we'll be assured of meeting both our present and future needs.

Amenities of the New Office

The new office will provide the following for our visitors and staff:

- Handicap accessibility including the public restrooms
- Convenient and ample parking
- Meeting space to accommodate up to 44 people
- Emergency Operations Center/Large Conference Room
- Enhanced security and climate control
- Better lighting, efficient work areas, and break room for staff

What Comes Next

In the next several weeks, Norr will develop construction plans for the office alterations and submit all necessary permits so construction can begin. Work will be contracted by our landlord and expected completion will take place in the Spring/Summer of 2022. Stay tuned for updates!

Long Time Volunteers Honored for their Service

Since residency is required for many of our elected and appointed positions, the Board of Supervisors reluctantly accepted the resignations of two very active volunteers who have relocated outside the Township this fall.

Wendy Graham

John C. Martin, Jr.

The Board of Supervisors recognize Wendy Graham for 21 years of dedicated service as a volunteer on the Planning Commission, 14 years on the Historical Commission/HARB, and serving 2 terms as an elected official as Judge of Elections.

In addition, Wendy was always front & center for our Earth Day clean-up events.

The Supervisors extend their appreciation for John Martin's insight and vision that has benefited our citizens for 43 years and will have a lasting impact on generations to come.

John served three full terms on the Board of Supervisors from 1978 – 1995, was on the Board of Auditors from 1996 – 2001, and served on the Zoning Hearing Board since 2001.



Meet Your Trees! ***The Red Mulberry***

- Hannah Rabold

Morus rubra, also known as the red mulberry, is famous for inspiring Van Gogh's painting "The Mulberry Tree." It is a medium-sized, deciduous tree with a short trunk and a broad, rounded canopy. It often grows up to 35 to 50 feet tall. The tree can have several different leaf shapes -- unlobed, mitten-shaped, or two or three lobed. The leaves can grow 8 inches long, and they turn bright yellow in the fall.

The tree's fruit, red mulberries, look similar to raspberries, but they turn black when they are ripe. The berries taste sweet and tart, contain vitamins A and C, as well as calcium, and iron. They are often eaten raw, or used to make pies, cakes, jam, juice, and wine.

The red mulberry is native to the northeastern, southern, and midwestern regions of the United States, as well as Ontario, Canada. It often grows in shaded woods and stream and river banks. Squirrels, raccoons, foxes, opossums and deer all eat red mulberries. The trees also attract birds such as cardinals, catbirds, purple grackles, and woodpeckers.

