



Connecting Our Communities



Facilitating communication and exchange of ideas in local municipal planning

In This Newsletter:

- LGAC/YCPC Actions
- York Freight Advisory Committee
- Commissioner's Corner
- Fawn Grove Boro Community Park
- Partner News
- 2024 CMP Public Survey



How Can Municipalities Regulate Beekeeping in Residential Zoning Districts?

Spring has sprung, and York County municipalities are once again abuzz with questions about beekeeping. It's a question that always seems to be on people's minds this time of year, and it's a question that YCPC staff have heard several times.

Beekeeping is an important practice that helps ensure that the plants and crops that we use and rely on every day are properly pollinated. Below are a few facts from Penn State University's page on [Pollinators](#):

- More than 80% of plants use pollinators to reproduce;
- 1 of 3 bites of food we eat exists because of pollinators; and
- Production of ¾ of the world's major food crops benefit from pollinators

With the importance of pollinators in our minds, what can municipalities do to permit the practice of beekeeping in their municipalities, specifically in residential zoning districts, while ensuring that the concerns of their residents are understood and addressed?

As a starting point, municipalities can review the [Model Ordinance for the Keeping of Honey Bees in PA Municipalities](#), which was created in a joint effort by the PA State Beekeepers Association, the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research, and the PA Apiary Advisory Board.

There are also municipalities in York County that already have language in their ordinances that addresses beekeeping. Examples include:

- [East Manchester Township's Zoning Ordinance](#)
- Windsor Township – in the Agricultural Zone, Rural Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone, and Medium Density Residential Zone:

Beekeeping, subject to the following:

- Hives shall be located only within the side or rear yards;
- Only hives with movable frames may be used, to permit inspection for disease, parasites, or pathologies.
- Hives shall be located no closer than fifty (50) feet from any property line.
- At least one sign denoting the presence of bee hives on the subject property shall be placed and maintained so as to be visible from the cartway.
- A hive shall not be positioned within one hundred (100) feet of a property with an existing kennel, animal hospital, or veterinarian's office with outdoor facilities.



County Parks

Which County Park is Nearest You?

View a map showing all locations of [York County's Parks](#).

In 1968, the Board of Commissioners for York County established the York County Parks Department to provide the community with a wide variety of activities and to acquire, develop, maintain and preserve lands for future generations to enjoy.

York County Parks operates 11 parks with over 4,500 acres, two museums, a nature center, and a historic site.

To learn more [Click Here](#)

Proposed Ordinance/ Plan/Map Amendments

LGAC/YCPC ACTIONS

Recommended Actions

Staff	LGAC	YCPC
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YCPC Project #24-005 Dover Township Zoning Ordinance Amend Text: Comprehensive Update	Adopt	Adopt	Adopt
YCPC Project #24-006 - North Codorus Township Zoning Ordinance Amend Text: Flexible Residential Overlay	Adopt	Adopt	Adopt
YCPC Project #24-007 - Chanceford Township Zoning Ordinance Amend Text: Ordinance Update	Adopt	Not Adopt	Adopt
YCPC Project #24-008 - Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance Amend Text: SFDD in ROS District	Not Adopt	Not Adopt	Not Adopt
YCPC Project #24-009 - Red Lion Borough: Zoning Ordinance Amend Map: Industrial (I) to Residential-Town (R-T)	Adopt	Adopt	Adopt



York Freight Advisory Committee

In 2023, the York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (YAMPO) adopted the first York County Freight Plan which seeks to effectively integrate considerations of freight and goods movement with the York Area MPO’s regional transportation planning process and its overall community and economic development principles. York County has a diverse multimodal freight network and regional connections to important mid-Atlantic cargo hubs. These are strategic mobility assets and a foundation for sustaining and growing the county’s economy.

The Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) comprises a cross section of public sector organizations, freight carriers (trucking, railroads, and air cargo handlers), freight-related industry (major manufacturing, warehousing, and wholesale trade; mining and agriculture), and key associations such as the York County Economic Alliance and Manufacturer’s Association. Members from the YAMPO Technical and Coordinating committees establish a strong connection between the FAC and the existing YCPC/MPO structure. For more information please visit the York County Planning Commission’s [Freight Planning](#) webpage.

The FAC’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Raising awareness among the members of the YAMPO transportation planning process and how freight is integrated with its plans and programs.
- Formation of committees and work groups around select areas of freight plan implementation.
- Networking, i.e., relationship building, including items as basic as two-minute verbal reports among members to highlight activity of note in their sphere of freight transportation.
- Collaboration with PennDOT on statewide freight planning efforts.
- Data and information sharing among members and with the public. [SEE MORE](#)



Commissioner's Corner



At the beginning of April, the York County Board of Commissioners approved an improved Local Economic Revitalization Tax Abatement (LERTA) Program application and review process. This updated application and review process clarifies the commonly asked questions and will help to lead developers through the process of determining eligibility of their project in a business friendly environment. LERTA is a tax abatement incentive to encourage improvements, rehabilitation, and new construction of qualified commercial properties throughout the entire County of York, when eligible.

The LERTA Ordinance, which had not been updated since 2011, provides additional clarity to the legal definitions of eligible projects and properties, clarifications to the approval process, as well as a more streamlined electronic application process.

Please visit the [York County LERTA](#) webpage to view the updated ordinance, a FAQ document, a flow chart, and application.

Fawn Grove Borough Community Park

In our third, and final, presentation of how community parks are serving the residents of their boroughs, we highlight Fawn Grove's Community Park. While we recognize that Christmas 2023 is long gone, the article captures the small-town appreciation and enthusiasm for their community park, and how it is supported.

Fawn Grove Borough and the Citizen's Volunteer Fire Company celebrated "Christmas in the Grove" on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The event was organized by Danielle Spencer, leader of the Girl Scout Troop 20840 in conjunction with the newly formed Fawn Grove Community Engagement Committee. The Firehouse Christmas Craft Show, Fawn Grove Vendor and Craft show, and local businesses were open from 9 AM to 2 PM. Fawn Grove Community Church offered free gingerbread house-making and other children's crafts. Food trucks provided dinner options. A tree lighting ceremony was held with Mayor Cathy Testerman and her son Blake leading the crowd in carols followed by homemade cookies and cocoa. Santa and the Grinch were in the Borough for all the activities!



2023 park improvements were made possible via donations including the 15-foot pine tree by Delta Nursery, plants from the Keystone Ten Million Trees Project, over 150 volunteer hours for park clean-up, and a free dumpster from Penn Waste and waste disposal by the York County Waste Authority. The Committee thanks the many private businesses, organizations, and community members who have provided in-kind donations which helped facilitate seasonal events. If you wish to get additional information about Fawn Grove Borough please visit the [municipal website](#).

Partner News



Amendment to Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act Restricts Local Government's Ability to Amend Meeting Agenda

by: *Devon Myers Kolomick, CGA*

Posted on: *March 26th, 2024*

In 2021, the Sunshine Act was amended to provide new requirements for publishing and posting public meeting agendas. The amendment required local governing bodies to post agendas to their publicly accessible website at least 24 hours in advance of the public meeting. The Sunshine Act amendment, however, provided limited exceptions to allow governing bodies to add items to its already published agenda within 24 hours of the public meeting or at the public meeting. Those exceptions are enumerated in Section 712.1 of the Sunshine Act and include the following:

1. a matter that relates to a real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property; or
2. a matter brought to the attention of the agency within the 24-hour period prior to the meeting, provided the matter is de minimis in nature and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into any contract or agreement; or
3. a matter raised by a resident or taxpayer at the meeting to be considered for the purposes of referring it to staff, researching it for inclusion at a later meeting, or for full consideration where it is de minimis and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into any contract or agreement; or
4. a majority of the members present at the meeting vote to add an item to the agenda.

A decision was rendered on November 8, 2023, interpreting Section 712.1 of the Sunshine Act. In *Coleman v. Parkland School District*, the Commonwealth Court held that local governing bodies are only permitted to amend the agenda within 24 hours of the public meeting if one of the first three exceptions above are met. The Commonwealth Court clarified that a fourth exception was not created; but rather it created the procedure to follow if (1), (2), or (3) were met. In order for a public agency to add an item to its agenda for official action, the item must first meet one of the three exceptions, and then the agency must vote to add the item to the agenda by majority vote, pursuant to Section 712.1.

This decision contradicts the initial interpretation and understanding of the amendment to the Sunshine Act. A Petition for Allowance of Appeal has been filed requesting the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reverse the Commonwealth Court's decision in *Coleman v. Parkland School District*. CGA Law Firm will continue to monitor this case diligently. Should you have any questions concerning the amendment to the Sunshine Act, please contact one of our [Municipal Law attorneys](#).



2024 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Public Survey



The York County Planning Commission (YCPC), on behalf of the York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (YAMPO), has begun to update the Congestion Management Process (CMP), the first since 2015. In concert with updating the CMP, a public survey has been created to obtain feedback from the public about the perception and observation of congestion in York County.

The goal of this survey is to gather information about the experiences, perceptions, and suggestions related to vehicular traffic and congestion locally. The responses received will help set goals and objectives for the Congestion Management Process (CMP) that reflect the desires of York County's residents, workers, and visitors. This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The [survey](#) can be taken on the YCPC website.