

# Honey Brook TOWNSHIP NEWS

Honey Brook Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania

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## Ordinances #167, 168, & 169-2013\* Adopted

On October 9, 2013, a public hearing was held on Ordinance #167-2013, amending the Zoning Ordinance of 2003, as amended, with regard to Kennels in the Township. The Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the ordinance.

On November 13, 2013 a public hearing was held on Ordinance #168-2013, setting the Speed Limit on Poplar Road at 35 mph.

The Board voted to adopt the ordinance.

On December 11, 2013, a public hearing was held on Ordinance #169-2013, amending the Zoning Ordinance of 2003, as amended, with regard to retail uses, rural occupations, & street line. The Board voted to adopt the ordinance.

\*All ordinances can be found on the township website.

## Planning Commission (PC) Update

### Comprehensive Plan due for update in 2016.

With this being a review of an existing Comprehensive Plan and not a full plan developed from scratch, there is no need for a formal Task Force. The Comprehensive Plan will be updated in conjunction with the Honey Brook Borough's update of their Comprehensive Plan. The Township Board of Supervisors encourages residents with particular questions or interests surrounding the Comprehensive Plan to make their suggestions known. The Planning Commission will discuss the Comprehensive Plan during Work Sessions, as needed.

**On-Lot Sewage Management.** On December 12, 2013, the Township held a public education session for residents which provided information about on-lot sewage disposal systems and why it is important to do periodic maintenance to ensure they will function properly long term. Informational handouts provided at that meeting are still available at the Township

Administration office.

*Important things to keep in mind include:*

- Use water efficiently
- Do not dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks and toilets.
- Plant only grass over & near a septic system.
- Do not drive or park vehicles on any part of a septic system. Doing so could compact soil in the drainfield or damage the system.

*Keep the following information handy:*

- Date system was installed.
- Installer.
- Phone number
- Tank size (in gallons)
- Capacity (number of bedrooms)
- Type (conventional or other)
- Maintenance Record. Post a simple list on your fuse box listing the service date, company & phone number, service performed, and any suggestions made by the servicer regarding follow-up.

For more information, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website at [www.epa.gov/owm/septic](http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic).

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH:

- 4 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 12 Regular Board of Supervisors mtg
- 13 Planning Commission (PC) Work Session (tentative)
- 18 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 18 Land Pres mtg
- 20 Parks & Rec mtg
- 27 PC meeting

### APRIL:

- 1 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 9 Regular Board of Supervisors mtg
- 10 PC Work Session (tentative)
- 15 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 17 Parks & Rec mtg
- 18 Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- 24 Planning Commission meeting

### MAY:

- 6 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 8 PC work session (tentative)
- 14 Regular Board of Supervisors mtg
- 15 Parks & Rec mtg
- 20 Zoning Officer on site at Township noon-4 pm
- 20 Land Pres mtg

## Important PP&L Information

In September 2012, PPL Electric Utilities announced its plans to build a new transmission line between its Honey Brook and Twin Valley substations in order to handle increased demand and bolster reliability in the

area.

Construction of the project is slated to begin this summer. More information can be found on the project website, [www.pplreliablepower.com/lancasterregion](http://www.pplreliablepower.com/lancasterregion).

## Land Preservation Committee (LPC) Update

The Land Preservation Committee (LPC) met at 8:00 am on January 21, 2014. This first meeting of the calendar year is traditionally on the same day as the Annual Farmer's Breakfast, which followed the meeting.

Regular meeting times for the

LPC are the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months at 6:30 pm.

In 2013, 6 farms which were approved by the Board of Supervisors for Land Preservation went to closing, totaling about 339 acres. Four farms representing 254 acres are pending finalization.



## Updated Website Launched

Deb Galick of DG Designs was awarded the contract to redesign the township website, [www.honeybrooktwp.com](http://www.honeybrooktwp.com). The new look was unveiled at the January 6 Board of Supervisors Reorganization and Regular meeting and went "live" on January 13. The site is not yet complete; there are a few sections that are still works in progress. The Administration Office requests patience as we work to get complete information displayed on the site.

The main sections are:

**Administration.** "Staff" has information about the Township Office; "Board of Supervisors," "Land Preservation," "Park & Recreation," and "Planning Commission" has agendas and minutes. Zoning has permit and Zoning Hearing Board information.

**Documents.** A variety of helpful information is here, including "Forms" for permit application, public hearing applications, etc.

**Government.** Contact information for county, state and federal officials.

**FAQs.** Answers to frequently-asked questions about animal control snow emergencies, recycling, voting, and

more.

Other sections include **Recognition, History, Calendar,** and **Announcements.**

Any questions or suggestions about the website are welcome; simply e-mail [HBAAdmin@ptd.net](mailto:HBAAdmin@ptd.net).



## Public Works Update

The Roads Department was busy this past winter with many snow events and emergencies taking place. Please note that during a snow emergency, cars which are parked on Township roads will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense per Resolution 2-2013. A snow emergency is defined as any snow accumulation of an inch or more.

Also, it is important to note that it's never the operator's intention to deliberately damage anything. Plowing is an inherently hazardous business involving large pieces of equipment moving at speed to lift and throw a heavy substance out of the way so traffic can pass. That business is complicated by dark-

ness, weather conditions, etc. The Township does not prohibit the placing of mailboxes within the limits of the legal right-of-way; however, since technically they are deemed encroachments where they are placed, they remain at the risk of the property owner. Therefore, the Township is not liable for damage to mailboxes, fencing, shrubbery, trees, etc. caused by snow removal or other maintenance.

Although in recent years it has been policy to repair mailboxes and posts that are damaged when a plow physically strikes it, it has not been policy to repair mailboxes and posts damaged when the snow is being moved or pushed back.

## Volunteers Needed!

The Board of Supervisors is always looking for interested volunteers for committees. While there are not always openings available, resumes and cover letters indicating your area of interest can be submitted any time to:

Honey Brook Township  
 P.O. Box 1281  
 Honey Brook, PA 19344

### Planning Commission

There is currently one opening on the Planning Commission, which meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm (with the exception of November and December, when meetings are the third Thursday). This committee reviews land development

and subdivision plans that come to the Township for review and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Workshops, necessary only if announced, would be held on the second Thursday of the month.

Feel free to call the Township Administration Office at 610-273-3970 to apply.



## Recycle Information-Act 101

Honey Brook Township is a newly mandated municipality regarding Act 101. The goals of the Act are to reduce Pennsylvania's municipal waste generation; recycle at least 25% of waste generated; procure and use recycled and recyclable materials in state governmental agencies; and educate the public

as to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. The benefits of recycling and waste reduction include reduced pollution risks; conservation of natural resources, energy and landfill space; and reduced disposal costs. The ordinance is in the process of being written and will be reviewed this spring.

# Township to Observe Milestone Anniversary in 2014

The Township will be celebrating 225 years in 2014. Stay tuned for announcements on activities and celebrations observing this milestone anniversary.

In addition, there will be some interesting facts and looks back at the Township in years past.



**Fun Fact #1:** the Township's real estate valuation was \$1,191,885.00 in 1952, the equivalent of \$10,343,708.37 in 2012 dollars.



# Honey Brook Township

500 Suplee Rd  
P.O. Box 1281  
Honey Brook, PA 19344

PHONE:  
(610) 273-3970

**Zoning Officer:**  
Larry Andes  
(610) 286-1622 x118  
Hours at Township  
building: noon-4 pm  
on 1st & 3rd Tues.

TOWNSHIP  
E-MAIL:  
hbadmin@ptd.net

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.honeybrooktwp.com](http://www.honeybrooktwp.com)

## Parks & Recreation Committee Update

**Summertime Youth Programs.** The Parks and Recreation Committee will once again provide summer activities for the community and their children. An 8-week summer tennis camp, now in its third year will be held for kids from age 6 to 15. Dates are yet to be announced. Approximately 40 children attended the tennis camp in 2013. Last summer a kick-ball club was introduced and 30 middle school age kids attended the 8-week program. It is also being planned to be held this year; dates are yet to be announced.

**Pickleball "season" to resume soon.** Once the weather turns more favorable, you will likely see pickle ball players on the tennis courts at the park. The equipment for pickle ball can be picked up at the Township Administration building.

**Facilities Use Application.** The Board of Supervisors adopted a policy requiring a \$100 deposit and completion of a Facilities Use Application form to secure a reservation for the Park pavilion on May 9, 2013. Please call the Township Administration Office at 610-273-

3970 to request availability and a copy of the application (also available on the website). Your chosen date will not be secured until the completed application and deposit have been received. Following your event, the Township will inspect the site. Provided no damage has occurred, your deposit will be returned in full.

The Township requests all persons and groups who use the park to be considerate of the neighbors and to also pick up litter following any activity. There are several trash receptacles available. Park hours are dawn to dusk. A list of Park Rules is clearly posted in the front parking lot.

**NEW Summer Camp.** There will be a "new" summer camp offered this summer for children 5th through 8th grade. This camp would run 4 weeks and would be the following: June 16, June 23, July 14 and July 21, 2014, from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost for this camp would be \$25 per week per student for a max of 25 students. More information about this camp will be launched on the Township website later this spring.

## Tips for Melting Ice Safely

Each winter, people apply ice-melting materials to sidewalks, driveways and steps often without being aware of the proper application procedures or what the deicing substance contains. Careless use or overuse can accelerate the freeze/thaw cycles that damage concrete and corrode metal, causing damage to cars and aluminum siding, as well as plants and shrubs near where deicer is used, if applied in large quantities. The combination of deicers used on sidewalks, roads, and parking lots leads to harmful levels of salts and nutrients entering storm sewers, which ultimately ends up in the streams and creeks of the watershed.

There are deicers that are safe for your home and when used properly. Ice melting products are most effective when spread thinly and evenly.

Common deicers are:  
**Magnesium Chloride.** Works quickly below 0 degrees; does not damage concrete or metal; moderately harmful to plants  
**Calcium Chloride.** Works quickly below 0 degrees; damaging to concrete (newly-poured especially), metal, brick, & stone; harmful to plants.  
**Sodium Chloride (salt).** Works down to 18 degrees; can damage concrete (newly-poured especially), metal,

brick, stone, harmful to plants.  
**Potassium Chloride.**

Works slowly down to 25 degrees; can be used on older concrete; moderately harmful to plants.

*Important:* never use fertilizer to melt ice or snow. The nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer can harm creeks and streams.

*Adapted from the Maryland Cooperative Extension's Fact Sheet 707.*

