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Carl Nolan, Chairman  
James Crawford, Vice-Chairman  
Brett Taylor, Secretary  
Larry Allison, Jr.  
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Michael Sherman



“Building Partnerships”

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

Kurt Hausammann, Jr., AICP, Executive Director

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Location:  
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### **MUNICIPAL PARTNER INPUT ON HUNTING PRESERVE AMENDMENT**

**DATE:** October 24, 2019

**TIME:** 6:00pm

**LOCATION:** Michael Ross Event Center-Williamsport, PA

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**Attendees:** Matthew Doyle, Muncy Township; Rick Macklem, PGE; Theresa Roupp, Cogan House Township; Daniel Roupp, Cogan House Township; Don Reese, Muncy Township; James Smith, Muncy Township; Arthur Plaxton, Jackson Township; Joe Reighard, County Planning Commission; Jack McKernon, County Commissioner; Tom Krajewski, David Hubbard, Fran McJunkin, Shannon Rossman, and Chris Musto, LCPC staff.

Tom Krajewski stated that the purpose of this meeting is to gain input from the partner municipalities under County Zoning to determine where hunting preserves should be permitted and any supplemental controls that should be required for this use.

This meeting is to gather input only regarding this use-no official action will be taken tonight regarding an amendment.

Our main focus will be on the amendment to the Ordinance only-no potential applications for the use. We will discuss amendment language and other agencies that regulate this use.

Introductions were made of those in attendance (see above).

We are proposing that the use of a hunting preserve be allowed in the following districts: Agricultural (AG), Resource Protection (RP) and Countryside (CS) by Special Exception.

This use would not be allowed in the districts of: Rural Center (RC), Estate (E), Suburban Estate (SE), Suburban Mixed (SM) and Regional Commercial (CR), Industrial (I) and Neighborhood Preservation (NP).

Tom presented an *overview* of the proposed amendment as follows:

**Definition** – Establishments engaged in commercial hunting/trapping or operation of game preserves. Also includes operations regulated by the PA Game Commission such as hunting grounds.

**Supplemental Controls:**

- a. Area must be no less than 100 contiguous acres which is undivided by public or private Right-of-Ways intended for conveyance of automobiles.
- b. Operation must be surrounded by a fence of appropriate height, extended two feet below ground or bottom of fencing at least two feet up and electrified.
- c. No commercial hunting enclosure should be erected within 450 feet of a residence, agricultural building, school, daycare facility or playground associated with a school.
- d. No activity between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- e. Proof that all required federal, state and local licenses and permits have been obtained.
- f. Principal building(s) permitted for conducting business and guest lodging accommodations (for patrons of hunting preserve only). Must follow requirements of Section 3240J (Country Inn). An accessory structure is also allowed for butchering purposes.

The agencies that regulate this use beyond zoning are the Department of Agriculture, PA Game Commission and Conservation District.

The following comments were presented from attendees (above):

- Concerns about bringing animals into this size acreage (100 acres); this is not a lot of property-number of animals should be limited
- Animals will become domesticated in this type of environment
- Will attract predators; i.e. bears, mountain lions-potential harm to neighbors and their property
- Effectiveness of fencing to keep animals from burrowing below the fence and entering hunting preserve
- Small operation may not attract as many predators
- Department of Agriculture requires waste testing
- Controlling type of firearms that will be used
- Would it be possible to have an township ordinance to regulate the type of firearms used
- Ability to regulate preserve hunting separate from hunting season regulations
- Will proof of liability insurance be required
- Conservation District deals with erosion and sedimentation control
- Issues with regrowth of timber
- Existing use would not need Special Exception approval; however, development; i.e. butcher house, may require land development approval
- Expansion of animal preserve properties
- County Zoning Hearing Board can impose conditions as they deem necessary
- Multitude of species that could be on these hunting preserves-need case by case evaluation as to type of fencing, etc.
- Exotic animals; what regulations, permits, etc. would be required
- Leasing of adjoining acreage

The attendees had no problem with Special Exception approval for this use in a Countryside (CS) Zoning District.

David Hubbard highlighted actions that would be taken to regulate this use. Primary concerns are safety, health and welfare of the community.

If anyone has any other feedback regarding this text amendment; i.e. supplemental controls, please contact the LCPC office.

Tom reviewed the process for approving this text amendment:

- The Planning Department will finalize the amendment language and present to the County Planning Commission (November 21, 2019) for a recommendation to the Commissioners for their approval.
- The proposed amendment will then be forwarded to our partner municipalities for review and comment. The comment period is 30-days.
- The amendment would then be advertised in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette; once 14-days prior to the public hearing/enactment and again seven (7) days prior to the public hearing/enactment.
- A public hearing will be held at a regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting and immediately afterwards the Commissioners would vote to enact or table the amendment if deemed not ready for approval.
- Following enactment, the municipal partners will be notified within 30-days of approval.

**Public Comments – None**

Shannon Rossman stated that minutes from tonight's meeting will be posted on our website and an e-mail link will be sent to our partner municipalities so they can review and comment on the information presented at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Krajewski  
Municipal Services Supervisor

