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## **Knollwood II gets go-ahead -- Bike path space to be included**

By: Jan Schott

The Forks Township Board of Supervisors gave final approval last Thursday night to the 66-acre Knollwood subdivision, with the request that the developer include a 20-foot-wide swath of land for use as a bike path.

The subdivision, located between Ben John Road and Bushkill Drive, will include 113 single-family lots and 25 acres of open space.

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The bike path issue drove most of the discussion on the plan, with the developer's engineer and attorney arguing for a smaller 10-foot-wide path. But supervisors said they were concerned that if property owners erect tall fences along their properties bordering both sides of the path, bicyclists would be biking inside a narrow tunnel.

The township will only be paving an eight-foot-wide section, and the bike path will connect to another path currently being constructed on the adjoining Horstein property, according to the developer's engineer, Don Fredrickson.

In other business, Supervisor Chairman David Hoff announced that the board has been interviewing candidates for the position of township manager for the past two weeks and would finish the first round of interviews this week. Second interviews would be conducted soon, he said.

Supervisor David Howell said he met with Forks Township Elementary School Principal John Castrovinci, who said using his school as a polling place has become "traumatic" because they have to find a big room, either the gym or the library, which disrupts school schedules. The building is also not handicapped-accessible.

The board briefly discussed the various municipal buildings, the fire house, administration building and community center, as possible polling places and decided they had no objection to using a township building in place of the school. The community center is already used as a polling place for two districts, while the fourth district uses the Faith Lutheran Church on Sullivan Trail.

"The role of the township is to centralize voting and make it easier for all citizens," said Howell. "We don't have the voter registration we should have. Once people start to move in and to register, the church and the school will be inadequate."

It is now up to Castrovinci to contact Northampton County voter officials concerning moving the polling place from the school to a township building, Hoff said.

Supervisor Donald Miller said he would look into getting an electrical contractor to give the township an opinion on installing surge protectors in electrical lines in front of the digital video recording (DVR's) devices used to monitor activity around the outside of the municipal buildings.

Township engineer Fred Hay said he doesn't believe lightening hit the units and that the malfunctions occurring recently were caused by electrical surges. He added that installing the surge protectors ahead of the units shouldn't void the warranties on the units.