

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building & Planning Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Agreement with Farm to City to continue the Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market Operation Through December 2020

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Date: October 24, 2019

I. Action to Be Considered by The Board:

Approval of 2020 annual agreement for Farm to City (FtC) to operate a farmers' market in Municipal Lot 7 in Bryn Mawr.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The operation of a market on property owned or under the control of the Township must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

III. Current Policy or Practice (If applicable):

The Township is authorized by the First Class Township Code (53 P.S. §56524) to establish, maintain and regulate markets and market places on public grounds and to contract with any person, firm, or corporation for the erection, maintenance, and regulation of market houses and market places.

The Board of Commissioners reviews these agreements annually. This farmers' market has been annually approved to operate on this Township property since its inception in 2009. The draft document has been updated to reflect the calendar for 2020 and closely follows the agreements previously approved for this market.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

Since 2009, the Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market has been managed by Farm to City (FtC) and continues to be one of their largest and most successful farmers' markets in the greater Philadelphia area. The market will continue to operate in a portion of Municipal Parking Lot 7 nearest Lancaster Avenue. In case of inclement weather, FtC has agreed that Lower Merion Township has no obligation to FtC with respect to parking lot conditions during their use and operation. FtC would operate less than weekly in Bryn Mawr on Saturdays for the first three months in 2020. The market's weekly seasonal operation is proposed to begin in April and conclude in December. The estimated number of needed parking spaces is up to 50.

V. **Impact on Township Finances:**

The market pays a fee for the use of the metered spaces used in the lot. It has been the Township policy to charge three dollars per day/per meter for the Bryn Mawr market events conducted in Municipal Lot 7. Value-added producers are subject to the Business Privilege Tax.

VI. **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the continuation of this agreement for 2020, pending the submission and approval of the 2020 market rules.