

## **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

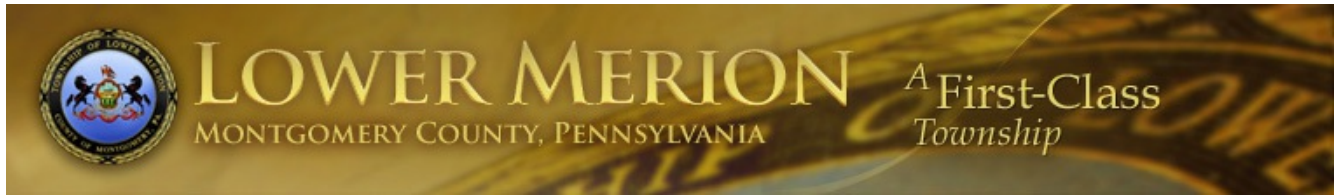
### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025  
6:00 PM ( Approximately)**

Chairpersons: Sean Whalen  
Vice Chairperson: Rick Churchill, Jeremiah Woodring

### **AGENDA**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INTENT TO DISCONTINUE, ABANDON AND VACATE BLISS STREET**
- 2. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 107, OFFICIAL MAP - VACATING BLISS STREET**
- 3. REAPPOINTMENT TO THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION**



## **AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

### **ITEM: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INTENT TO DISCONTINUE, ABANDON AND VACATE BLISS STREET**

A Public Hearing to review, discuss, inform and receive public comment on the intent to discontinue, abandon and vacate Bliss Street (formerly River Road) from each of the Lower Merion Township municipal boundary with Conshohocken Borough to the end of the dead-end cul-de-sac, a distance of approximately 815 feet.

This Public Hearing was authorized for advertisement at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners held July 16, 2025, and duly advertised in the Main Line Times and Suburban Times on August 24, 2025 and August 31, 2025.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**



## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

### ITEM: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 107, OFFICIAL MAP - VACATING BLISS STREET

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Township Secretary to advertise notice of intent to adopt an Ordinance to amend the Official Map of Streets of the Township of Lower Merion, adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 107, entitled Official Map, to vacate and abandon a portion of that certain right-of-way known and designated as Bliss Street AKA River Road, thirty-three feet wide, from Old Crawford Road easterly the distance of eight hundred sixty-six and twenty-six one-hundredths feet (866.26), more or less to its termination, in the Township of Lower Merion.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Briefing - Bliss Street Vacation	Issue Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Ordinance - Bliss Street Vacation	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Bliss Street - Sketch	Backup Material

# **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

## ***Public Works Committee***

### **Issue Briefing**

**Topic:** Ordinance to Vacate Bliss Street

**Prepared by:** Paul McElhaney, Director of Public Works

**Date:** September 3, 2025

**I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:**

Authorize the Township Secretary to advertise a Notice of Intent to adopt an Ordinance to amend the Official Map of Streets of the Township of Lower Merion, adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 107, entitled Official Map, to vacate and abandon a certain right-of-way, being designated Bliss Street, formerly River Road, thirty-three (33) feet wide from Old Crawford Road easterly the distance of eight hundred sixty-six and 26 one-hundredths feet (866.26), more or less to its termination in the Township of Lower Merion.

**II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:**

The Board of Commissioners must authorize advertisement of Notice of Intent to adopt an Ordinance prior to vacating a Township road.

**III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):**

N/A

**IV. Other Relevant Background Information:**

Bliss Street runs through both Conshohocken and Lower Merion Township. The section owned by and to be vacated by Lower Merion Township begins approximately just past the entrance to the parking garage at 226 Bliss Street and ends at a small cul-de-sac located in Gladwyne, as shown on the attached map.

This roadway has been brought to the Township's attention several times throughout the years mostly due to complaints of overgrowth and untidiness. Staff has determined that there is no benefit to the Township or use for this section of roadway.

If this right-of-way is vacated, the underlying land will revert to 2,3,4,5,6,9,10 and 14 Woodmont Road and will also revert to the Norfolk Southern Railroad since this land area is included on the deeds for these properties.

**V. Impact on Township Finances:**

This will have no impact on Township finances.

**VI. Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners authorize the ordinance to vacate this section of right-of-way.

## AN ORDINANCE

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL MAP OF STREETS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION, CHAPTER 107, ENTITLED OFFICIAL MAP, TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS BLISS STREET, AKA RIVER ROAD, THIRTY-THREE FEET WIDE, FROM OLD CRAWFORD ROAD EASTERLY THE DISTANCE OF EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX AND TWENTY-SIX ONE-HUNDREDTHS FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO ITS TERMINATION, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion deems it to be necessary for the public convenience and for the general benefit and welfare of the public to vacate a portion of Bliss Street, AKA River Road.

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion does hereby enact and ordain:

**Section 1.** That a portion of Bliss Street, AKA River Road, thirty-three (33) feet wide from Old Crawford Road easterly the distance of eight hundred sixty-six and 26 one-hundredths feet (866.26), more or less to its termination, as described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, is hereby vacated and abandoned for public use according to the General Road Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Said road shall be deleted from the Township Plan of Streets upon the filing of a report of these proceedings.

**Section 2.** Within ten (10) days after passage of this Ordinance, notice thereof shall be given by handbills posted in conspicuous places along the street or highway referenced herein, which notice shall state the fact of the passage or approval of this ordinance and the date thereof.

**Section 3.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding in any Court, any rights acquired or liability incurred, any permit issued, or any cause or causes of action existing prior to the adoption of this ordinance.

**Section 4.** The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part, or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair the

remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts, or provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board that this Ordinance would have been adopted as if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part or provision had not been included herein.

**Section 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

Approved by the Board this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Todd M. Sinai, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jody L. Kelley, Secretary

## EXHIBIT "A"

### BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD DESCRIPTION OF VACATED AREA

ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AND LYING IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO A PLAN ENTITLED "BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD RECONFIGURATION" OF PROPERTY OWNED BY LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP, PREPARED BY PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC., DATED DECEMBER 19, 2023, PROJECT LOWM093909, TO WIT:

**BEGINNING** AT A POINT IN THE EASTERLY LINE OF LANDS N/F APN 16-00-67548-00-2 SAID POINT BEING THE FOLLOWING TWO COURSES AND DISTANCES FROM A POINT AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF CONSHOHOCKEN STATE ROAD (SR 0023) (40' WIDE ROW) AND THE SOUTHERLY TITLE LINE (EXTENDED) OF LANDS N/F APN 40-00-67548-00-2;

- A. COINCIDENT WITH THE SOUTHERLY TITLE LINE OF LANDS N/F APN 40-00-67548-00-2 THROUGH THE BED OF SAID WOODMONT ROAD (40' WIDE ROW), N 85°20'45" E, A DISTANCE OF 601.73', TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY AND EASTERLY TITLE LINES OF LANDS N/F APN 40-00-67548-00-2 PREMISES B, THENCE;
- B. COINCIDENT WITH THE EASTERLY LINE OF LANDS N/F APN 40-00-67548-00-2, N 9°18'15" W, A DISTANCE OF 170.38', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, SAID POINT BEING THE **PLACE AND POINT OF BEGINNING**;

THENCE FROM SAID **PLACE AND POINT OF BEGINNING**;

- 1. DEPARTING SAID LINE COINCIDENT WITH THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD (33' WIDE ROW), N 88°53'43" E, A DISTANCE OF 221.78', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, THENCE;
- 2. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, S 85°55'21" E, A DISTANCE OF 314.66', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, THENCE;
- 3. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, N 85°34'17" E, A DISTANCE OF 329.82', TO A POINT IN THE EASTERLY TERMINUS LINE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD, THENCE;
- 4. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, S 7°32'10" E, A DISTANCE OF 33.05', TO A POINT IN THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD, THENCE;

5. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, S 85°34'17" W, A DISTANCE OF 334.06', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, THENCE;
6. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, N 85°55'21" W, A DISTANCE OF 315.62', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, THENCE;
7. COINCIDENT WITH THE SAME, S 88°53'43" W, A DISTANCE OF 98.03', TO A POINT IN THE SAME, THENCE;
8. DEPARTING SAID LINE THROUGH THE BED OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BLISS STREET AKA RIVER ROAD, N 75°59'55" W, A DISTANCE OF 126.63', TO THE **POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING,**

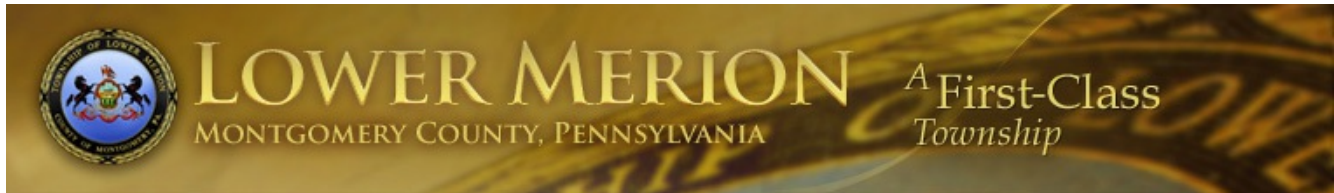
SAID ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING WITHIN SAID BOUNDS 26,631 SQUARE FEET, OR 0.612 ACRES, OF LAND (MORE OR LESS).

DRAFT









## **AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

### **ITEM: REAPPOINTMENT TO THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners the reappointment of Timothy Kenealy to the Shade Tree Commission for a five year term, such terms to expire March 2030.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**