

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building & Planning Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Authorizing the Township Manager to enter an agreement with Farm to City to operate the Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market through December 2019

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Date: October 24, 2018

- I. **Action to Be Considered by The Board:** Approval of 2019 annual agreement for Farm to City (FtC) to operate a farmers' markets in Municipal Lot 7 in Bryn Mawr.
- II. **Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** 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 must approve the market to operate on property owned or under the control of the Township.
- III. **Current Policy or Practice (If Applicable):** This farmers' market has been approved to operate on this Township property since its inception in 2009. The Board of Commissioners reviews these agreements annually. The draft document has been updated for 2019 and closely follows the agreements previously approved for this market.
- IV. **Other Relevant Background Information:** The Bryn Mawr Farmers' Market has been managed by Farm to City (FtC) since its opening and continues to be one of their largest, most successful markets in the Greater Philadelphia area. For the 2018 season, the Bryn Mawr market consisted of 24 producers who attend either weekly or biweekly. There were also 13 producers who have attended on a monthly or seasonal schedule.

The market will continue to operate in a portion of the 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 on a less than weekly market operations in Bryn Mawr on Saturdays for the first three months in 2019. Then the market's weekly seasonal operation is proposed to begin in April and conclude in December. The estimated number of needed parking spaces would be up to fifty spaces.

- V. **Impact on Township Finances:** The market pays a fee for the use of the metered spaces in the lot. It has been the Township policy to charge three dollars per day/per meter for the Bryn Mawr market events. Value-added producers are subject to the Business Privilege Tax.
- VI. **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board approve this agreement for continuation.