

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked for a moment of silence to honor the service men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety. Mr. Harbison also noted that on March 10, 2008, the Township lost a loyal Public Works employee, Derek "Jake" Donofry. Mr. Donofry served the Township for 33 years, was 52 years old, and is survived by his wife Mary Jean.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approving same as written and recorded in the official minute book of the Township.

Special Report

Mr. Harbison announced that on the evening of March 3, 2008, Kristy Kaller, Montgomery Avenue, noticed something unusual with regard to the Schlatter's Run, which runs adjacent to her residence. Ms. Kaller called the Township for assistance. Several volunteer and paid emergency responders arrived on site and were able to contain a fuel oil spill which appeared to emanate from the Montgomery Rehab Hospital on Stenton Avenue. Mr. Harbison thanked Ms. Kaller and all the volunteer and paid emergency responders who attended to this incident.

Cory Bird, 517 Haws Lane, a sophomore at Springfield High School, suggested there was little in the community for teenagers to do. He believes that an activity building, pool room, bowling alley, or opportunities to golf would be welcomed by the teenagers. Similar activities to the police athletic league may also be of benefit to the community.

Sean Metrick and Jean Holland, of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, were invited by the Board to address the concept of a riparian corridor ordinance for Springfield Township. Mr. Metrick suggested that the concept has been under consideration by Springfield Township since the late 1990s. The concept of a riparian corridor conservation district is to improve the quality of surface water by reducing the amount of sediment and organic matters through infiltration and absorption into plant materials and the land. In addition to reducing flooding and improving water quality, recreational opportunities and open space are benefits of a riparian corridor ordinance. Two maps were presented by the Planning Commission, one included streams

and soil types in Springfield Township, and another was an example of how a riparian corridor might be applied to a particular area. The County officials indicated that nine communities in Montgomery County have riparian corridor ordinances in place.

Mr. Heller stated his general support to protect the riparian corridor area, but inquired how the ordinance might affect individual properties. Mr. Heller was told that it would not affect existing properties unless changes were made to the properties. Mr. Gillies requested and received an explanation of the different types of waterways within the corridor, specifically the perennial and intermittent streams. Mr. Dailey asked if the Planners had any thoughts as to how many homes would be affected by the ordinance, whether the ordinance contemplates a meandering creek, and the responsibility of compliance if the property owner owns both sides of the creek. Mr. Standish noted that, to the extent a creek meanders, the Board of Commissioners would need to define and redefine the applicable zones set forth in the ordinance. Ms. Peirce asked if the Township would need to remap creeks due to changes in the map over time. The Planning Commission members seemed to believe that would be necessary. Mr. Gillies identified a possible conflict of permitting accessory buildings within the corridor, but limiting the storing of hazardous materials in the corridor. Oftentimes, hazardous materials are stored in the accessory buildings. Mr. Gillies also asked for clarification on the threshold of when compliance was required. The Planning Commission indicated that threshold is consistent with the non-conforming uses in the Zoning Code which permits up to a 25% increase in the building area. Mr. Gillies inquired whether the Planning Commission had contemplated how the new regulations would affect a little league property, and a golf course with a stream directly adjacent thereto. Mr. Berger inquired why appeals to the regulations would be directed to the Zoning Hearing Board vs. the Board of Commissioners, given the Board of Commissioners' ability to utilize the Township Engineer and the engineer's technical background. The Planners stated the Zoning Hearing Board was the appeal body used by other communities. Mr. Dailey inquired as to how crossings through a corridor via driveways or paths are addressed by the ordinance. The Planning Commission members indicated there is a compensatory formula to create additional corridor area for the area taken up by the driveway or path.

Mr. Gillies recalled past discussions on the riparian corridor ordinance and believed the effort to create the AAA Residential Zoning District for areas undeveloped in Springfield Township was designed to accomplish the same goal. Ms. Peirce pointed to the importance of reducing flooding and improving water quality in fully developed towns, such as Springfield Township. Mr. Harbison remarked on his appreciation for the concept, but acknowledged that the devil is in the details with such a proposal.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners would conduct a public hearing related to the Green Fields/Green Towns Open Space Program. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Commissioners resumed their regular business meeting.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs and Environmental Resources Committees, reported:

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners had received the Hugg report, an investigation of the Axford/Treml complaint related to an alleged child sexual abuse incident. The Board was in the process of completing their work with the report and will make an announcement related to the findings at the April business meeting.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the February check reconciliation in the amount of \$787,583.99 and the March bill listing in the amount of \$528,085.68.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of February Springfield Township residents recycled 194 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 78.3%. The net cost for the month was \$3,336.11.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor and Township staff to create a petition to be filed in Montgomery County declaring 1504 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, as a tax exempt property.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, had no report, but humorously remarked on the irony related to two library programs. One program provided instructions on making chocolate, while the second related to controlling the cravings for sweets.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to reject all bids received on February 22, 2008 related to the improvements to the main entrance of the Flourtown Country Club clubhouse and to the swimming pool entrance. It was noted that five bids were received for the project. All bids greatly exceeded the architect's estimated budget costs for the project.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to award a contract to Edward F. Swenson & Associates of Philadelphia to conduct a campaign feasibility study for a fundraising campaign to raise funds for phase III of the Black Horse Inn renovation project. The cost of the engagement is \$34,500. Mr. Standish remarked that the Township received two good proposals from strong candidates.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to award a contact to DelVal International, of Montgomeryville, to supply a 2009 International truck chassis for the bid price of \$87,690. The chassis will be utilized for a refuse truck.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Cultural Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Peirce-Heller) carried unanimously to award a contract to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving, of Collegeville, to dredge the Hillcrest Pond, which included the base bid and alternate II, for a price not to exceed a cost of \$100,000. Ms. Peirce indicated that the project was being funded by Springfield Township, the Friends of Hillcrest Pond, and a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sponsored by Sen. Vincent Hughes.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

Mr. Dailey indicated that last month the Board of Commissioners authorized the office of the Township Solicitor to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board in opposition to the application of Wordsworth Academy as it related to their interest to convert existing office space to classroom use. Subsequent to the opposition, the Academy met with Springfield Township and Upper Dublin Township and explained in greater detail the need for the additional space and the educational requirements of the children involved. As a result of the meeting, the Board of Commissioners is withdrawing their opposition to the Wordsworth petition before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Heller, Chairman of Community Development Committee, reported:

Motion (Heller-Peirce) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated March 10, 2008 from John Held, owner of the Held subdivision located at 4 Shepherds Way, Glenside, extending the 90 day subdivision plan review period without regard to time in order to provide an opportunity for the design engineer to bring the plans into compliance with the Springfield Township Code.

Mr. Heller announced that as a part of the April 9, 2008 business meeting of the Board, the consulting team of Michael Baker Jr., Inc. and Carter van Dyke Associates will make a presentation of the draft master plan for streetscape improvements along Bethlehem Pike.

Mr. Harbison announced that draft copies of the Park Use Permit and Screen of Adults Supervising Recreation Programs Policy is available for public review on the Township web page, and copies are available in the Manager's Office.

Mr. Michael Harkins, 1799 Willow Grove Avenue, asked the Board for their assistance related to securing a visual barrier between his property and a huge traffic sign that is due to be installed along route 309 expressway. Mr. Harkins reviewed his efforts with the PennDOT district office to secure the visual barrier, which was unsuccessful.

James Malone, 404 Enfield Road, indicated that he lives in what might be designated as a riparian corridor adjacent to the Oreland Run. Mr. Malone asked the Board of Commissioners to consider how the riparian corridor may affect property values when residents sell their properties located in the riparian corridor, and also suggested that a riparian corridor concept would be best addressed through the watershed as opposed to individual communities adjacent to a particular stream.

Robert Ryan, 6 Franklin Avenue, asked that the Board of Commissioners make as much of the Hugg report available to the general public as possible. To the extent the report would indicate that punishment was appropriate for actions or inactions when the Axford/Treml complaint was first initiated, this punishment should be levied.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary