

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 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 with the exception of Mr. Harbison. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish 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. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Standish announced that Mr. Harbison was not in attendance at the meeting as his mother recently passed away and he had family obligations.

Mr. Standish called on representatives of the Township Environmental Advisory Commission to make a presentation on their research on various watersheds within Springfield Township. Representatives from the Environmental Advisory Commission included Robert Ryan, Mara Baird, and James Quigley. Mr. Ryan led the presentation of the watershed research. Mr. Ryan noted that a predominance of the information presented was made available through the Philadelphia Water Department. He noted that 20% of the Schuylkill River is from the Wissahickon Creek. The Schuylkill River is one of the main surface sources for drinking water for the City of Philadelphia. Almost all, approximately 90%, of the Township falls within the Wissahickon Creek watershed. The goal of the Advisory Commission in creating the watershed map is to provide education on the zone of influence of individual properties within Springfield Township. The various streams within the Township were identified and the Advisory Commission plans to walk the streams to help identify issues within the streams, both positive and negative, that affect the health of the streams. Mr. Gillies asked if, when the Advisory Commission walks the creek, the Commission's work will create a resource wherein the watersheds can be tied to riparian corridors. Ms. Peirce alerted the group to the fact that Montgomery County has a watershed map that may be beneficial to their work. Ms. Baird indicated that the Advisory Commission plans to perform a variety of associated tasks with the watershed mapping and will release the information as it is made available in order to create and keep interest in the watersheds. Mr. Quigley noted the interest of the Advisory Commission in working with the area schools and plans to present maps and related information to each of the schools.

A group of local businesspersons led by Dan Helwig of Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, addressed the Board of Commissioners on the state of the business community. Mr. Helwig provided a brief history of business activity within the Township. He discussed the taxes paid to both the School District and the Township, as well as their support of local non-profits in the area. Mr. Helwig asked for the support of the Board of Commissioners in implementing improvements in the business community, as identified by a multitude of recent studies.

Maureen Cumpstone, of Flourtown and the Sorella Rose Restaurant, discussed the nine year effort in creating a Vision Plan for the Flourtown and Erdenheim business district, which has indeed been supported by the Township. She believes it is now time to begin to implement the infrastructure changes identified in the Vision Plan. In order to do so, it is believed that it is time to secure the services of a Main Street Manager. A Main Street Manager can help with grant writing, technical expertise, and provide the background and support for efforts to improve the district.

Tony Mariello, of Bethlehem Pike, is a long term business person and former resident. Mr. Mariello stated he appreciates the past improvements along Bethlehem Pike, but would like the Township to help in making additional improvements for the businesses.

Al Comly, owner of the Acme Shopping Center, noted that the business persons and Township are all stakeholders in maintaining a solid business community, and believes that the business community needs help with making improvements in the area to keep things moving forward.

Mr. Helwig indicated that the Township and interested groups have been working on a town center ordinance for approximately 18 months. The ordinance is currently with the Planning Commission. The town center ordinance will suggest changes to the Zoning Code to help facilitate improvements to the business district. Somewhat related, there have been a number of traffic studies, and Mr. Helwig thought that by the end of the year the Township should have a clear direction on means by which the traffic conditions might be redesigned. In conclusion, Mr. Helwig suggested that the Board of Commissioners select a liaison to work directly with the business community.

Mr. Standish thanked the businesspersons, noted the past cooperative efforts, and acknowledged the need to continue to move forward.

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.

Robert Gutowski, 305 Northwestern Avenue, addressed the Board of Commissioners as a member of the Township Planning Commission. Mr. Gutowski wished to acknowledge the exemplary service of Chris Tomlinson as a member of the Planning Commission. Mr. Gutowski noted his understanding that Mr. Tomlinson recently resigned his membership on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Gutowski expressed his pleasure that the Board of Commissioners is reviewing the draft riparian corridor ordinance. He suggests that the existing floodplain conservation regulations address public safety, but the riparian corridor ordinance goes on to also address environmental quality and stormwater management.

Mr. Schaum stated that he is most interested in the relationship between existing developed properties and future improvements to those properties, mechanisms to trigger the implementation of the corridor ordinance and how that may affect existing residences.

Ms. Peirce agreed and would like to understand the thresholds of when the proposed ordinance and any similar regulations might be required.

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

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the June check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,224,131.54 and the July bill listing in the amount of \$678,480.38.

Mr. Standish announced that during the month of June, Springfield Township residents recycled 219.9 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84.4%. The net cost for the month was \$1,991.88.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to enact ordinance No. 893, an ordinance clarifying existing death benefits within the salaried and hourly pension plans. The purpose of the ordinance is to eliminate the term "in service" within the non-uniformed pension plans, in order that the term would not be incorrectly interpreted to be similar to the normal interpretation for a police pension plan which equates "in service" to "while in the line of duty".

Mr. Schaum, Co-Chairman of Public Safety Committee, reported:

Mr. Schaum noted that the Board of Commissioners and Township Police Department continue to consider improvements to the intersection of Yeakel Avenue and Erdenheim Road that might render the intersection safer. Mr. Schaum reviewed several options considered, but at this time, the Township Police Department would recommend not making any changes to the intersection, but does plan enforcement of posted speed limits and stop signs.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-24, Schedule I, Speed Limits, by establishing a 25 MPH speed limit for the entire length of Brent Road, and to amend Section 107-28, Schedule V, Stop Intersections, to install a stop sign on Brent Road, traveling in easterly direction, at Lorraine Avenue.

Motion (Schaum-Heller) carried unanimously to reappoint Jane Roberts as a full member and Robert McGrory as the alternate member to new six year terms of service on the Springfield Township Police Civil Service Commission. The new six year terms shall expire July 16, 2014.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to reappoint Thomas Pryzblinski to a new three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. The new term of service shall expire July 13, 2011.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, had no formal report. Mr. Gillies announced that the library summer programs are in full swing and suggested that residents visit the library and take advantage of the programs.

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

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize participation in the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities public auction to be held on August 9, 2008 in Plymouth Meeting, PA. The vehicles and equipment scheduled to be sold at auction includes a dump truck, a tub grinder, a Chevy pickup truck, a GMC Jimmy, and two Chevy Tahoes, used tires and old snow chains.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on July 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

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

Mr. Heller announced that the Board of Commissioners received correspondence dated June 18, 2008 from Chris Tomlinson resigning his position as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Tomlinson served on the Commission for six years and noted that obligations with his family, business and other interests preclude him from being able to continue to serve on the Planning Commission. Mr. Heller, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thanked Mr. Tomlinson for six years of faithful service.

Due to Mr. Tomlinson's resignation, Mr. Heller announced there is currently a vacancy on the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Residents interested in serving as a member of the Planning Commission were directed to send a letter of interest or resume to the Board of Commissioners, prior to August 1, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary