

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 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 all to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silence honoring the service men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way to help preserve our safety.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the minutes of the public hearings for the 2009 budget and the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. All three meetings were held December 10, 2008.

Mr. Harbison acknowledged the presence of Beth Drezner, a former Township Commissioner.

Special Announcement

Mr. Harbison announced that as a part of the meeting the Commissioners would receive a special report from an architectural firm that has studied the municipal campus located on Paper Mill Road and Hawthorn Lane. Mr. Harbison also noted the manner in which the Board would conduct its business at the meeting. An announcement was made that the "Traditions of Springfield" would not necessarily be discussed at the meeting as this development has continued their hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board from January until March 2009.

Martin Kimmel, of Kimmel Bogrette Architects, was called upon to make a presentation on their analysis of the existing municipal facilities, comparisons to industrial standards, and the concept of possibly improving the existing municipal campus. Mr. Kimmel indicated his firm evaluated the existing municipal campus, operational needs and requirements, validated program needs for the public works, administration and police departments, and did a quantitative program analysis for the library and possible community center. Comparisons were made in all categories of existing work areas as compared to the industrial standards for the departments. In all operational areas, space provided was greatly less than the industry standard. Mr. Kimmel presented one concept campus plan which provided building additions to the existing administration and police building, additional buildings at the existing public works site and the demolition and rebuilding of a new library and community center on the existing library property. In all cases, the development utilizes land directly adjacent

to the municipal campus that was already under ownership by the Township. The concept plan would maintain the existing access points and would utilize new buildings and elevations to help abate visual impact and sound impact within the neighborhood.

Marian Coopersmith, Hawthorn Lane, inquired as to any cost estimates related to the proposals. She was told estimates would be developed at a later date. Mrs. Coopersmith opined that she did not believe the Township needs the building improvements and she did not believe it was an appropriate time. Mrs. Coopersmith discussed the world economy and implications of the cost of the improvements on Springfield taxpayers.

Keith Fallon, Cheltenham Avenue, suggested his main concern was with expansion of the Public Works Department closer to area residences. He suggested that the Board of Commissioners consider relocating the Public Works Department in the location of the existing library, and perhaps move the library closer to the residences.

Marie Keissling, Lorraine Avenue, asked that the Board of Commissioners consider stormwater management improvements as a part of the overall development.

Irv Silver, Cheltenham Avenue, inquired whether the construction project could be considered in phases. Mr. Silver was told that phasing would be considered.

Jill Rosenfeld, Poplar Road, inquired whether the financial requirements for the construction project have been considered, including the cost of purchasing the properties. She also asked that the Board consider green buildings if the project moves forward.

Charlie Carl, Pine Road, suggested the Board consider financing opportunities and grants. Mr. Carl noted that there are some grants available for environmentally sensitive and energy-efficient buildings.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Township has been working on a riparian corridor conservation district ordinance which continues to evolve. One amendment he believed was important to make was that the ordinance not require any changes to existing properties unless or until the property owner makes a major change to his property. Additionally, in the event the residents believe relief from the ordinance is necessary, that review would be conducted by the Board of Commissioners as opposed to going through a zoning process. He noted that as a part of the February meetings, Dr. Robert Ryan, a Township resident, will explain the science behind riparian corridors.

Mr. Dailey differed with Mr. Harbison's position that the ordinance had been amended based on the criteria discussed. He believes the ordinance still requires compliance upon enactment of the ordinance. An amendment he would like to see made in the future is that residential lawns would be permitted to be maintained within the riparian corridor.

Jill Rosenfeld, Poplar Road, readdressed the Board on the discussion of riparian corridors and was interested in how many townships had passed a similar ordinance. She also inquired whether existing water quality information within the streams was available, and suggested that an educational component for all residents should be a part of the ordinance.

Anthony Squadrito, Norfolk Road, stated his opposition to any discussions related to the construction of a trail to the rear of his property. He is concerned with crime associated with the trail, and noted poor experiences of friends who live adjacent to a trail. He noted his concern for general safety for school children as there is a trail being discussed that would be adjacent to the Township schools. In conclusion, he suggested he has a problem with any reference of trails within the Township Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

John Cahill, Marks Road, indicated his firm works with PennDOT on many projects including the Route 202 bypass which includes a recreational trail. He indicated that similar to other projects, the residents adjacent to that planned trail expressed their concerns very similar to those expressed in Springfield. Over time however, those residents have come to appreciate the recreational trail.

Dave Morris, Norfolk Road, suggested that statistics shared with the neighbors related to the use of trails at the time were ten years old and believes any further discussion on the trails should include more up to date statistics on their use and issues surrounding the trails. He opined that other trails discussed in the past have greater setback distances between trails and nearby private homes, as compared to Norfolk Road and Penn Oak Road.

Mr. Harbison wished to clarify the trails identified in the Township Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan are merely concepts at this point. Mr. Morris asked if there were any priorities for the various trails identified in the plan. Mr. Harbison indicated there were not.

Auggie Scaffidi, Penn Oak Road, expressed his opposition to a recreational trail near his property. He suggested that other trails discussed were in outlying areas and were not as close to the City of Philadelphia. He expressed his doubt that the trails would be easily monitored by law enforcement, and in conclusion he suggested the trails should be located in areas where people are interested in trails.

Jane Henderson, Penn Oak Road, asked if there was information available on our web site related to the Comprehensive Plan and trails. Ms. Henderson was directed to the Township's website and Mr. Heller's website.

Joseph Slapinski, Harston Lane, discussed the County green ribbon trail and the status of that trail running along the Dixon property. Mr. Slapinski would like to see that trail pursued.

Pat Hynes, Pleasant Avenue, stated his belief that trails are a good place for children to enjoy safe recreation, and does not believe a trail is a conduit for crime.

Al Comly, Jr., representing his family, owners of the Flourtown Acme property, stated that the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan shows the trail across his private property and stated the property is actively being used for improvements associated with his property, and would like any reference to that trail removed from the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Peirce inquired as to the status of legal indemnification of municipalities related to recreational trails. The Township has received an opinion from the Township Solicitor and she would like to confirm same with the County Solicitor to be assured of their consistency.

Rick Metz, Bent Lane, stated his appreciation for the establishment of trails and preservation of more green space. With regard to other discussions on the riparian corridor conservation district, he suggested that residents who live adjacent to a stream benefit from that proximity and therefore have more responsibility to maintain the integrity of the stream.

Tom Madle, Franklin Avenue, stated that if the Cresheim Trail was established through the community, it would help with his bicycle commute to and from work. He believes that young children in the area do benefit from recreational trails and noted his experience with other trails where the nearby residents were concerned with the trail but over time, have learned to appreciate the benefit of the trail.

Michael Seidman, Larrimore Lane, indicated that he has been working with organizations to build trails for over 30 years. Most communities have very similar fears as discussed in Springfield, but those fears never come to fruition. He also briefly discussed his understanding of the liabilities in Pennsylvania for municipalities where the trails exist.

David Hanson, Greenhill Road, opined that recreational trails make a community more livable. He also discussed his experience while living in Holland.

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

Mr. Harbison provided background information as to the need for the Board of Commissioners to appoint a Township Treasurer as a result of Mr. Bradley's resignation. The appointment to be considered by the Board of Commissioners will be for one year, as the current year is an election year for the office of the Township Treasurer.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to adopt Resolution No. 1194, a resolution to appoint Joan Parsons, of Susan Circle, as Township Treasurer. Mr. Dailey commented that both candidates interviewed by the Board of Commissioners were qualified, experienced and

involved in the community. Ms. Peirce stated her belief that formal education in the accounting field was important to her. Mr. Gillies noted Ms. Parsons' experience in bill collection given her current occupation. Mr. Gillies also noted Ms. Parsons has an office in Springfield Township. Mr. Heller agreed that both candidates were qualified, but Ms. Davis, the other candidate, had committed to running for the office and believed the continuity of the office was important. Mr. Harbison agreed with Mr. Heller, commenting that the voters will have an opportunity to evaluate Ms. Davis' performance prior to the election, and he was also pleased to learn of her interest in upgrading services over the web, and computer programming. Vote on the motion 3-4, Harbison, Heller, Peirce, Standish opposed. The motion did not carry.

Motion (Heller-Peirce) to adopt Resolution no. 1194, a resolution appointing Bonny Davis of West Heather Road as the Township Treasurer. The vote 4-3; Messrs. Dailey, Gillies, Schaum opposed. The motion carried.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint Maryellen Alviti, Grove Avenue, Flourtown, to serve a one year term as the Chair of the Springfield Township Vacancy Board.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$2,128,907.73 and the January bill listing in the amount of \$691,643.94.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of December, Springfield Township residents recycled 298.4 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 77.4%. The net income for the month was \$10,215.52. He also announced that for the year 2008, the net cost to operate the program was approximately one-third of what was anticipated in the 2008 Budget. This was principally related to a short lived increase in the sales of the recyclable materials. The number of tons recycled in 2008 compared to 2007 was less, however, residents also produced less refuse. The amount of recyclable materials diverted from the waste stream remained at 30%.

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1195, a resolution celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Holy Martyrs Parish in Oreland. Mr. Gillies read into the record Resolution No. 1195.

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

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Gillies announced that as a result of the resignation of a member of the Library Advisory Committee, the Board of Commissioners was encouraging residents interested in serving on the committee to send a letter or resume to the Board of Commissioners, c/o Township Manager, at the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Peirce-Heller) to adopt Resolution No. 1193, a resolution accepting the Springfield Township Park and Recreation Connection Plan 2008 as the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Peirce thanked the study committee and identified each member. Mr. Dailey wanted to be assured that his comments had been shared with Ms. Toole, the consultant assisting with the creation of the Comprehensive Plan and noted that he believed the plan was more of a recreation advocacy plan and did not identify concerns with certain activities. Ms. Peirce assured Mr. Dailey that his comments and comments from all the Commissioners were shared with Ms. Toole. Mr. Dailey made a motion to table the vote on Resolution No. 1193. Mr. Dailey's motion did not receive a second. Messrs. Harbison and Heller noted the endorsement of trails within the Comprehensive Plan but that each trail must be addressed carefully. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Ms. Peirce announced that on Monday, January 19, 2009, Springfield Township, the School District of Springfield Township and the Springfield Community Foundation will help celebrate the first annual "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Springfield Township". Ms. Peirce described the activities planned for the day including the conclusion of a community-wide food drive to the benefit of Philabundance.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board application of the Traditions of Springfield, 350 Haws Lane, Flourtown, related to a retirement home use at the stated address, had been continued and since there were no other applications before the Zoning Hearing Board for the month of January, the meeting scheduled for January 26, 2009 would be cancelled. The next meeting of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled for February 23, 2009, which has also been rescheduled due to the President's Day holiday.

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

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to authorize the proper Township officials to execute a Termination of Development Agreement between the Township and Teachers REA II LLC, who are the successors in interest to the Arbors Associates LP, previous owners and developers of 9801 Germantown Avenue. The Arbors Development was not pursued and therefore the development agreement is no longer necessary.

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the final subdivision plan of John and Eileen Held, 4 Shepherds Way. The plan consists of six plan sheets dated December 28, 2007, last revised November 17, 2008. The subdivision proposal consists of a two lot single family residential subdivision. The approval

of the subdivision is subject to the following conditions and includes specified exemptions to the Springfield Township Code as follows: (1) Section 95-10.A, a waiver is granted to the requirement that the street cartway width should be 30 feet, (2) Section 95-10.I, the requirement to install sidewalks along the Shepherds Way right of way is deferred at this time, (3) the Township subdivision and land development plan check list item C that requires existing features within 200 feet of the site to be shown on the plan has been waived in lieu of the presentation of an aerial photograph showing the existing features, (4) a note shall be placed on the plan that indicates future improvements to lot #2 will require the owner to submit a land development plan for review and approval, and (5) all future improvements on the property shall be consistent with the requirements of the Springfield Township Code, including the requirement to secure a stormwater management permit.

Mr. Heller indicated that next month he may introduce a policy endorsing recreational trails in Springfield Township with consideration to cost, privacy, safety, lighting and access.

In conclusion Mr. Harbison thanked all the residents for their assistance during the meeting while discussing their varied concerns and interest for recreational trails.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary