

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, October 12, 2011 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 everyone 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 in order to help preserve our safety.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence:

Mr. Harbison noted that the Township received a letter dated October 10, 2011 from Father Michael J. Ryan, Pastor of the Holy Martyrs Catholic Church in Oreland, indicating that when Rev. Cox appeared before the Board of Commissioners in September 2011, Father Ryan's name was included in a list of clergy who were in support of the Human Relations Ordinance. Father Ryan asked that his name be removed from Rev. Cox's list of clergy who were in support of the Human Relations Ordinance.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approving same, reflecting an amendment striking Father Ryan's name as a member of the clergy supporting the Human Relations Ordinance, and recording the minutes in the official Minute Book of the Township.

Commissioner Harbison recognized past Commissioner Suzie O'Neill who was in the audience.

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive meeting as a part of their workshop meeting on Monday, October 10, related to potential litigation associated with the zoning validity challenge regarding the placement of billboards in Springfield Township.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, read a letter on behalf of her neighbor, Jane Markey, 15 Brookside Road, who was unable to attend the meeting due to medical conditions. Ms. Markey's letter described in detail the damage to her pool when flood waters drain across the rear yards on Brookside Road and deposit mud and debris into the pool. Ms. McClintock also read a letter on her own behalf recounting her efforts following receipt of FEMA funds to install french drains in her rear yard. She too sustains damage as a result of floodwaters flowing through the back yards from Brookside Road, and suggested that the flooding appears to be more common now than in the past.

Madeline Griffin, 8911 Montgomery Avenue, recounted numerous floods she has experienced at her residence since she purchased the property a few years ago. She discussed

the physical damage to the property, as well as the emotional toll on her family. She thanked the Township for making the services of the Township Engineer available and will continue to work with the engineer to better understand the conditions on her property. Ms. Griffin suggested that the stone bridge on Montgomery Avenue appears to cause water to back up in the stream adjacent to her property causing the damage to her residence. She appreciates and supports the efforts of other residents who have sustained damage in their basements, but wished to call special attention to those like her who sustain damage on the first floor living space. Mr. Dailey indicated that he has recently been working with PEMA, FEMA and PA DEP at the Montgomery County Disaster Assistance Center. He outlined the manner by which individual residents can secure assistance from FEMA, however, most often the FEMA assistance is loan-based through the Small Business Administration. Mr. Dailey called for the Board of Commissioners to work together and secure the support of the locally elected State officials to help apply for disaster assistance for neighborhoods that continually sustain damage to their properties.

Mark Ryan, 7 Terminal Avenue, indicated that he sustained damage to his basement due to a sanitary sewer back up. He indicated that he installed a back flow prevention valve and ball gate, but also kept the basement floor drains. Unfortunately, the basement floor drains were unable to hold back the sewage flows.

Tom Concannon, 303 Longfield Road, indicated that he had six feet of water in his basement. He has been flooded many times in the past and has checked his sanitary sewer lateral and found that to be in good order, and is looking for the Township to take a lead in solving his flooding problems.

Judy Patitucci, 101 East Wissahickon Avenue, expressed her appreciation for those who sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Irene. She indicated that prior to the hurricane she had her basement waterproofed and the work seemed to help a great deal. She indicated she would like to reach out and help the residents in any way she could to aid in their recovery process.

Mike Maxwell, 45 Brookside Road, indicated that he previously made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners at their workshop meeting a few days prior. He indicated that in the past he worked through his local commissioner requesting assistance with the flooding, and now was looking for the entire Board to work as a group to make flooding the number one priority within the Township. He inquired whether the Township would have any of their future plan designs to address stormwater reviewed outside consultants. The Board was not certain that would occur.

Tom Bell, of Flourtown, agreed that the Board of Commissioners should make flooding and sanitary sewer issues their number one priority. He agreed with the previous comments with regard to the Board of Commissioners working as a group and inquired whether the Environmental Advisory Commission might look at stormwater and sanitary sewer issues. He also thought that the State representative for the area should become involved in securing assistance for the residents.

Louise Taylor, 35 Grove Avenue, representing herself and her neighbor, Janice Scott, at 24 Grove Avenue, provided history of flooding on portions of Grove Avenue dating back to 1966. She indicated that from approximately 1966 until about ten years ago, there was very

little flooding. However, over the past ten years the flooding appears to occur more often. She believes that the stormwater is originating from Carson Valley School and the adjacent neighborhoods. Ms. Taylor hoped that adjustments could be made to the stormwater inlets in Grove Avenue to assist with draining the street.

Dave Boring, 27 Brookside Road, indicated that his property backs up to the Mount Saint Joseph Academy property and a great deal of water leaves the property from the athletic track. He also noted that a great deal of water drains into Brookside Road from the upper end of Erdenheim via Bethlehem Pike. He too has had modest sanitary sewer issues due to pressure within the sanitary sewer line.

Tony Mascaro, of Grove Avenue, agreed with earlier comments with regard to the amount of stormwater that flows across College Avenue, Weiss Avenue and Grove Avenue.

Mr. Gillies suggested that the Township create an inventory of all the problem areas and prepare a data base that might be discussed at a future meeting.

Katie Smith, 42 Brookside Road, indicated that she has installed a back flow prevention device and a ball gate on her sanitary sewer system. She noted that she maintains flood insurance, however, the flood insurance will only cover necessities that are required to be replaced. She asked the Board of Commissioners for assistance.

Grace Serratore, 629-631 Bethlehem Pike, also noted that a great volume of water enters her property that originates in a portion of Erdenheim. She asked that the Township move forward with finding a solution to the stormwater issues.

Mike Maxwell, 45 Brookside Road, believes the Township has not moved on information previously provided by residents. Mr. Heller discussed the meeting held on October 3, 2011 with Brookside Road residents to gain specific information as to their issues. Mr. Dailey suggested that the Board of Commissioners needs to take the matter to the next level and secure assistance from State officials. Mr. Gillies inquired whether the Township could take a portion of an individual's private property for stormwater management through condemnation. The Township Solicitor indicated that the Township could utilize eminent domain to secure property for stormwater management.

Wendy Stoudt, Fairwold Lane, indicated that her property sustains damage from water that appears to originate from Pennsylvania Avenue and runs through her neighbor's property. Most of her damage is to the exterior of her residence.

Peggy Tomarelli, 37 Grove Avenue, discussed the water flowing across Grove Avenue from College Avenue and suggested that the new basins at Carson Valley School do not help.

Alan Goode, 75 N. College Avenue, recounted sanitary sewer back-ups sustained at his property in 2004 and 2007, and agreed that stormwater could be entering the sanitary sewer system through the sanitary curb vents at each property.

Vincent Rossi, 627 Bethlehem Pike, indicated that he has had stormwater in his basement several times over the past several years, and this year it has happened several times in one year.

Diane Dougherty, 627 Bethlehem Pike, stated that she rents at this location and has started a new business and cannot afford damage to her business as a result of stormwater.

Susan Mountney, Hemlock Road, stated that there are 11 houses on Hemlock Road that sustain stormwater damage from the nearby creek and hopes that the Township will make stormwater a priority in the future.

John Stevens, 55 N. College Avenue, suggested that his property has been flooded several times causing him an immediate financial loss and stress due to the flooding and clean-up. He also noted an overall decrease in his property value.

Ina Lipman, of Wyndmoor, suggested that the Board of Commissioners may wish to consider a holistic review of development in the Township as it may assist with the management of development and stormwater issues. She addressed the Board of Commissioners on the use of Wyndhill Park and noted that the Township had created a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, therefore, unknown to her, the Township had planned for the use of the various Township parklands. She noted the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan suggested that the parks be developed with planning and that the recreation facilities are assets. She suggested that the Township look beyond active athletic facilities for each of the parks. In conclusion, she stated her appreciation for the work of the Board of Commissioners.

Donald Lewis, 630 East Gravers Lane, recounted that the neighbors and Board of Commissioners discussed the future of Wyndhill Park over the past four months. The group of neighbors that worked with the Township was interested in preserving Wyndhill Park as it exists, and reviewed the history of the preservation of the property and improvements made to the park. He reminded the Board of Commissioners of issues he raised concerning the potential development of the park for an active athletic field. He recounted that the neighbors, Board of Commissioners, and the sports clubs met to discuss the proposal for the future use of Wyndhill Park, noting that some meetings were contentious, and politically motivated. Mr. Gillies remarked that disagreement is not necessarily politically motivated. Mr. Gillies pointed out that Wyndhill Park was not always a passive park, and discussed the issuance of Township permits for athletic activities at that location as well as non-organized athletic activities at that park. Mr. Gillies then compared the potential traffic congestion at Wyndhill Park vs. Veterans Park where the activities might be located, and opined that the traffic congestion will be greater at Veterans Park. Mr. Dailey took exception to Mr. Lewis' remarks related to partisan politics. He stated that he was not aware of any political affiliations of those interested in the activities and suggested that he was approached by the Soccer Club on the need for additional fields. He met with the Club to see how the Township might help. It was his impression that the Board of Commissioners made the decision to permit the activity at Wyndhill Park, but would have agreed to revisit the decision if requested. Mr. Dailey would like the Park and Recreation Department to have limited access to Wyndhill Park in the future.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount of \$993,092.39 and the October bill listing in the amount of \$660,807.92.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of September, Springfield Township residents recycled 216.3 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 71.3%. The net cost for the month was \$4,159.65.

Mr. Harbison announced the meeting schedule through the adoption of the 2012 budget, as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Workshop	10/19/11	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	11/9/11	8:00 PM
Budget Hearing	12/14/11	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/21/11	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1262, a resolution distributing the State pension fund aid to the three Springfield Township pension plans consistent with a formula provided by the Township Pension Fund Administrator. The Township received \$570,835.93 for distribution.

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

Mr. Schaum explained that the Township emergency services utilizes two radio systems, including an 800 MHz system as well as an old high band police radio. In an effort to increase radio coverage at less cost, the Township plans to relocate the high band antenna repeater.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to enter into a lease agreement with American Tower to permit the Township to relocate their high band radio antenna to the tower managed by American Tower Management LLC at 8006 Southampton Avenue, Wyndmoor. The term of the lease is five years with a total payment due for the entire term of \$1,000.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, had no report. Unrelated, Mr. Gillies suggested that the Board of Commissioners expedite a meeting with the State Representatives to discuss flood relief aid. Ms. Peirce agreed and suggested that the Board of Commissioners continue the discussion on the flood assistance at a special meeting.

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

Motion (Standish-Dailey) carried unanimously to award a contract to B. Blair Corporation, of Ivyland, PA, for their bid price with alternate #1, for a total of \$77,426, to perform the Bergan Road Stream Stabilization Project. Mr. Standish indicated that the Board of Commissioners received five bids that were opened on October 4, 2011 for the subject project. The project will include the installation of gabion baskets within the Enfield Run to the rear of 1201 Bergan Road.

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

Ms. Peirce recounted that over the past several months, the Board of Commissioners had participated in discussions regarding the use of Wyndhill Park and Veterans Park for active athletic programs. The discussions included local residents and representatives from the Springfield Soccer Club and the Girls Lacrosse Club. In conclusion, the general consensus of the parties was to move forward with making renovations to Veterans Park.

Motion (Peirce-Heller) to authorize modifications to be made to the upper athletic field at Veterans Park to accommodate an additional athletic field. Mr. Gillies reviewed the history of the athletic uses at Wyndhill Park, particularly those permitted during the years 2006 and 2009. Permits were issued for both soccer and lacrosse seasons. He believed the costs associated with repairing the Wyndhill field will be minor compared to those at Veterans Park, which could include regrading, removal of the existing roller hockey rink and filling in those areas. He noted that the carbon footprint would be greater to perform the repairs at Veterans Park as opposed to Wyndhill. Mr. Gillies noted that Veterans Park would now support baseball, football, soccer and lacrosse activities. He does not wish to close out the future use of Wyndhill Park for athletic activities. Mr. Dailey asked Ms. Peirce if she might amend her motion to include limited use at Wyndhill Park for soccer and lacrosse activities. The limited hours might include the months of April and May from 3:30 PM to dusk, and in August and September, from 3:30 PM until dusk, and all other times, the public could utilize the park as desired. Ms. Peirce did not wish to amend her motion.

Mr. Harbison suggested that when the soccer club was initially looking to find a location, their first choice was Veterans Park, but because of their concern with the use of the park by the Wyndmoor Hose Company for their carnival, they considered the Wyndhill Park as an alternative site. Through discussions with all the parties, it was felt that with watering the athletic field after the carnival use, the field can recover for soccer season. Mr. Harbison believes that Wyndhill Park is a nice passive park, which should be preserved. Mr. Harbison noted the possible need to improve the parking at Veterans Park and that those discussions have begun. In conclusion, he wished to thank all the parties that were involved in the discussions surrounding Wyndhill Park and Veterans Park.

Vote on the motion was 6-1; Mr. Gillies opposed.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will next meet on October 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Dailey also announced that MC Outdoor LLC extended the time in which the Zoning Hearing Board must hold their first hearing on the zoning validity challenge until November 21, 2011. The MC Outdoor LLC zoning validity challenge is related to the installation of billboards within the Township. The challenge proposes to place billboards in two locations along Bethlehem Pike. The Board of Commissioners previously voted to defend the challenge and the Board will continue to maintain that position.

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

Mr. Heller announced that the Township is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of a municipal Comprehensive Plan is to provide an overall future vision for the Township along with proposing tools to implement that vision. The Springfield Township and Montgomery County Planning Commissions have created a document known as "Emerging Trends and Critical Issues Report", which will be presented to the agencies of the Township and the community at large to gain input on the Comprehensive Plan vision, goals, objectives and implementation strategies. All residents were encouraged to participate in the Comprehensive Plan Update process.

Motion (Heller-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the land development plan for 8616 Montgomery Avenue. The subject of the land development is a single family detached dwelling with a garage. The plans were created by RKW Engineering Services and dated July 18, 2011, last revised October 6, 2011. In conjunction with the approval, the following waivers to the Springfield Township Code were granted:

1. Section 95-10.A requires streets with a 50 foot right of way to maintain a minimum cartway width of 30 feet. Montgomery Avenue is approximately 26 feet in width. A waiver was granted.
2. Section 95-10.I requires the installation of sidewalks on streets which are residential in nature. It is noted that there are no sidewalks along the majority of Montgomery Avenue. A deferment to this requirement was granted.
3. Item C of the subdivision checklist requires that existing features within 200 feet of the site be shown on the plan. A waiver to this requirement was granted.

The land development was also approved with the following conditions:

1. The owner shall secure the required stormwater management permit and enter into an operations and maintenance agreement with Springfield Township including a blanket access easement agreement with regard to the stormwater management system.

2. The owner shall secure a permit for the sanitary sewer disposal system from the Montgomery County Department of Health.

Mr. Gillies asked that the Board of Commissioners consider reviewing the process by which the residents at 8911 Montgomery Avenue might be bought out due to flooding conditions. Ms. Peirce suggested that the Township look at the stormwater issues on a macro level. Mr. Dailey agreed and suggested that the State should become involved in the issue. While Mr. Heller agreed to review the large scale issues, he noted that in some locations, smaller projects have been identified which will provide immediate solutions and these solutions should also be acted upon. The Board of Commissioners agreed to discuss stormwater management issues at their budget workshop meeting scheduled for October 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Township Manager