

MINUTES OF MEETING
SPRINGFIELDTOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
April 17, 2012

The Springfield Township Planning Commission (PC) held its semi-monthly meeting on the date noted above. Chairman Bob Gutowski called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM, with the following members present: Amanda Helwig, David Sands, Bob Gutowski, Angela Murray, James Mascaro, Joseph Devine, and George Schaefer. Absent was Mary Holland. Rob Dunlop Staff Liaison represented the Township and Jean Holland represented the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) this evening. Commissioner James Dailey was absent.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 3rd, 2012 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes made by A. Murray and seconded by B. Gutowski. Minutes approved unanimously. 3 Abstained; J. Mascaro, A. Helwig, S. Schagrin.

Commissioner's Report

No Report

Presentation

Nina Safavi, Morris Arboretum, Univ of Penn.

Ms. Safavi presented her findings of a study she conducted evaluating the Tree Canopy coverage of Springfield Township using GIS data and Satellite Imaging. This included analysis of land classification and Wards. This information is useful for use in the Comprehensive Plan and future analysis. The study took on three parts; Education, Outreach, and Consulting. The purpose of the Tree Canopy Map is to understand our current tree resources. Springfield Township Tree Density came in at 32.4% for the entire Township. It is recommended that suburban areas like ours be at 40%. It is important to note that Storm Water and Air Quality are impacted by canopy coverage. The PC discussed the cost and need for a tree inventory specifically in areas prone to flooding.

Old Business

Comprehensive Plan

J. Holland presented an updated Sidewalk Inventory Map. The PC reviewed the map and the locations that were identified for priority attention for the installation of safe pedestrian access. In order of priority were Health / Safety, High Traffic Locations, Library / School Locations, Parks / Recreation Locations. Specific locations discussed by PC were the Paper Mill Road to Gordon Road section of Bethlehem Pike and the Paper Mill to Bethlehem Pike section of Montgomery Ave.

The discussion then turned to Goals & Objectives. J. Holland presented a definition of Sustainability to the PC. The PC discussed who would be responsible for implementing the ideals of Sustainability in the Township and the EAC was suggested. There must be an aspect of accountability with any goal we implement. The Goals for Sustainability were; Education, Promotion, and Enforcement. Examples of this given were; LEED goals for new buildings, more trees in our park system, and addressing all storm basins to become naturalized basins.

The PC turned to the Guiding Principles presented by J. Holland. The PC felt if there were guiding principles for one goal they would have to do the same for all goals. Therefore, the principles would be rolled into the general definition of Sustainability.

Motion to adjourn made by A. Murray and seconded by J. Mascaro. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes by A. Helwig, Secretary