

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**SPRINGFIELDTOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**November 20, 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 6:56 PM, with the following members present: Amanda Helwig, Bob Gutowski, Joseph Devine, George Schaefer, Steve Schagrin, James Mascaro, Angela Murray, David Sands and Mary Holland. Commissioner Tom Bell represented the Township and Jean Holland represented the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) this evening.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes made by S. Schagrin and seconded by D. Sands. All were in favor. 1 Abstained: J. Mascaro

**Commissioner's Report**

The Pizek Tract Subdivision was approved by the BOC.

**New Business**

**Township Sandwich Board Sign Ordinance**

The Township BOC has requested input from the Planning Commission in the amendment of the current sign ordinance to allow for sandwich board signs during business hours in commercial zoning districts.

In discussing the ordinance change, the PC concluded that the sandwich board signage should not be electronic and shall have no internal illumination. J. Holland recommended that the sign type maybe included under a type designated ad Temporary Signage. In addition the PC agreed that they would like to restrict this type of signage to B1 & B2 zoning districts, and specific uses (restaurants and retail), but would also encourage staff to seek language that would include civic organizations, such as the Springfield Township Historical Society – who put out a sign to alert the public that the Archives are open, and this zoning would restrict them.

In addition, the PC reviewed the 7 items conveyed by township residents as recommendations to be made a part of the new zoning ordinance.

1. PC agreed that the Maximum height shall not exceed 48” and a width of 30”
2. PC amended that one allowable “Sandwich Board” Sign for each business shall be placed in front of the business it advertises and placed at the public entrance, or adjacent the curb, and at least three feet of the sidewalk shall be left unobstructed.
3. PC agreed that moveable type and dry erase message boards shall not be permitted. Staff to research similar language in Ambler Ordinance as a model.
4. Pc agreed that sandwich board signs shall be weighted at the bottom or heavy enough so that the sign cannot be moved by high winds. These signs cannot be chained, tied, or affixed to any structure or object.

5. PC agreed that sandwich board signs shall remain on the sidewalk only during business hours and must be removed at the close of business hours.
6. PC amended to read that sandwich board signs shall not interfere with any minimum sight distances of that particular intersection.
7. Define “sandwich board sign”.

### **Public Comment**

Poe Flannigan. 1520 Bethlehem Pike. Ms. Flannigan inquired if there is a time frame for implementation of the ordinance. R. Dunlop responded that they would have to get a draft ordinance together, there would also have to be advertisement and public review. Likely will come into effect in February or March 2013.

Eleanor McNichol. 113 Atwood Road. She applauded the PC for taking the time to help grow the retail community in the township.

Motion to recommend that the Sign Ordinance be amended to add sandwich board signs as a permitted use subject to the conditions and recommendations discussed, made by J. Mascaro and seconded by S. Schagrin. All in favor.

### **Comprehensive Plan Update**

**J. Holland**

The next step with respect to the Comprehensive Plan is for J. Holland to present the PC’s Goals and Objectives to the Commissioners on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. . With approval, the PC will be able to complete the Comprehensive Plan and put it up for Public Comment. J. Holland also encouraged PC Members to visit the Montgomery County website, montcopa.org and review the proposed 2013 Budget.

### **Campus Municipal Planning**

**M. Holland**

M. Holland reported that she is part of a good size group that has been meeting more regularly to discuss the campus municipal plan and that an Open House will be taking place on December 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 12:30 pm here at the Township Building. All are welcome and input is greatly appreciated. They hope to have a master plan by January.

Motion to adjourn made by J. Mascaro and seconded by D. Sands. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:28pm.

Minutes by A. Helwig, Secretary