

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, May 12, 2021, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. Due to social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish requested everyone to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silent reflection honoring the service men and women who place themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety at home and overseas.

Mr. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Lee-Cobb) carried unanimously dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting as written and recorded in the official minute book of the Township.

Mr. Standish noted that Andrew Friemuth, of the Wisler Pearlstine law offices, was in attendance for Mr. Garrity, and that Mr. Garrity would be joining the meeting later.

Announcements

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted a special executive session meeting on May 10, 2021 as part of the regularly scheduled workshop meeting to discuss one personnel matter and two matters of litigation.

Mr. Standish announced that due to limitations on the size of indoor public gatherings, all regular and special meetings of the Board of Commissioners and Township Advisory Boards will continue to occur virtually using the Zoom video conferencing platform until further notice. Meeting details and instructions on how to access meetings can be found on the Township's website (www.springfieldmontco.org) in advance of each meeting.

Mr. Standish announced that last month the Board stated that representatives of 380 Haws, LP, owners of the property located at 380-402 Haws Lane, were invited to meet with the Springfield Township Planning Commission on May 4, 2021 to present a proposal for the construction of a townhouse development. Subsequently, counsel for 380 Haws, LP indicated that they required additional time to prepare for such a meeting. Therefore, 380 Haws, LP will be meeting with the Springfield Township Planning Commission on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

Video Presentation

Mr. Graham stated he would be sharing a short film with the Board and the public on the topic of racial inequity in our schools. The film was created by the Cheltenham Branch NAACP Youth Leadership Committee. Members of the Committee gathered statistics and stories, and identified several concerning trends in academics, discipline, and staff bias that are captured in the video. This video is a small fraction in a collection of anonymous narratives that were shared by students and other members of the community about their experiences. The Board of Commissioners encourages all members of the Springfield Township community to attend a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, May 19th at 7 pm to join the discussion on how to promote anti-racism in schools. The Board then viewed the video.

Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Graham for sharing the video and noted that it is a difficult but important issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Graham commended the youth group for creating the video. Mr. Cobb indicated that it was his hope that the Township could help facilitate participation in the upcoming town hall. Mr. Wilson asked if the video was shared with the School District administration and Board of Directors. Mr. Graham responded in the affirmative and suggested that the District, and in particular Superintendent Yannacone, has been very responsive.

Betsy Wallace, of the Chestnut Hill Local, stated she was going to write an article regarding the video to be included in the next issue of the Local. Ms. Wallace requested the names of the members of the Youth Committee for that purpose.

Mr. Standish opened the meeting to comments or questions from the public and drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda this evening. No comments were received.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, reported:

Motion (Standish-Wilson), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1528, a resolution accepting a Deed of Dedication from Axelrod MPD of Philadelphia, LP, for a 5,600 square foot right of way along a portion of Northwestern Avenue in accordance with legal descriptions prepared by Blue Marsh Associates, Inc. for lots 1 and 2 of the Axelrod Subdivision, 241 Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia. As part of the subdivision and land development of the two lots, Northwestern Avenue was widened between 6 and 7 feet in front of both lots, and the additional right of way will permit additional widening to occur in the event that it is deemed necessary by the Township.

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

Motion (Harbison-Graham), carried unanimously, to approve the April check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,056,862.70, and the May bill listing in the amount of \$658,485.21.

Mr. Harbison announced that in 2017, ClubCorp, Inc., owners of the North Hills Country Club, petitioned the Montgomery County Board of Assessment for a substantial reduction to the assessed value of the property. The Board of Commissioners entered its appearance to defend against the appeal. Since that time, the Township and ClubCorp have exchanged various settlement offers in an effort to resolve this matter and to avoid protracted litigation. The Board of Commissioners is interested in securing a fair real estate assessment, and is mindful of the open space benefits the property provides to the community in its present state.

Motion (Harbison-Maxwell), to approve a settlement agreement if agreed to by ClubCorp, Inc. related to the Real Estate Tax Assessment appeal for the property located at 99 Station Avenue, Glenside, PA. The terms of the settlement shall stipulate a market value assessment for the property of \$4.0 million in 2017, \$4.5 million in 2018, \$5.0 million in 2019 and 2020, and \$6.0 million in 2021. In addition, ClubCorp shall agree to extend the current deed restriction limiting the use of the property to a membership-based golf and country club for an additional 5 year period, expiring in 2032.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board on the matter. Mr. Wilson did not agree with the manner in which the settlement agreement was negotiated. He believes the Board may be in a better position to take the matter to Court. Several members of the Board reminded Mr. Wilson that the Judge assigned to the case has instructed both parties to settle this matter. In addition, if the matter were to proceed to litigation, the agreed upon values would not be substantially

different than those that are being agreed to, but the Township would not be able to secure the desired extension to the deed restriction. Vote on the motion: 6-1; Wilson opposed.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of Cultural and Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of April 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 180.07 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 82.6%. The net cost for the month was \$25,830.43.

Mr. Wilson announced that Springfield Township recently participated in a recycling composition study with other members of the Montgomery County Recycling Consortium in which the Township's recyclables were found to contain the least amount of residue of all municipalities. The results of the composition study show the Township's residue rate to be 11%, which is well below the national rate of between 15% and 25%. Mr. Wilson commended the Township residents, as well as the Public Works Department for their efforts.

Motion (Wilson-Graham), carried unanimously, authorizing the Township to participate in an inter-municipal contract with the Montgomery County Recycling Consortium for the preparation of contract documents to secure transfer station management, material hauling, and recyclables processing services on behalf of the consortium and its member municipalities. The proposed contract is to be awarded to MSW Consultants, LLC and was submitted in response to a Request for Proposals solicited by Upper Dublin Township in April, 2021. The total cost of the contract is \$37,400 for which Springfield Township's pro-rata share is \$5,477.34.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee:

Motion (Graham-Cobb), carried unanimously, to reappoint Adrienne Smythe, Noelle Powell and David Morris to new, three-year terms of service on the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The new three year terms of service shall expire on May 12, 2024.

Motion (Graham-Cobb), carried unanimously, to approve the classification of the Township's parklands in accordance with criteria established by the National Recreation and Parks Association. The purpose of the classification practice is to identify for potential park users the level of services, amenities and facilities available at each property. In addition, the classification policy will identify which parks are available for athletic rental use, event rental use and passive use. Mr. Graham outlined for those in attendance the classifications for township parks which have been recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Cobb requested clarification regarding the conduct of a special event at a park facility that would not be permitted by the new classification. Mr. Taylor explained that the Board of Commissioners would need to approve such a request.

Motion (Graham-Wilson), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1532 authorizing a grant applicant to the 2021 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful "Healing the Planet" Grant Program. The purpose of the grant proposal is to secure funding in the amount of \$25,000 to facilitate the Mermaid Park Habitat and Stream Restoration Project. If funded, the grant award will be leveraged with \$205,600 in grant awards previously obtained for the project.

At this point, Mr. Garrity joined the meeting and Mr. Freimuth was excused.

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

Mr. Maxwell announced that in response to concerns raised by property owners regarding commercial deliveries, on-street parking, and general traffic congestion in the area of Traymore Avenue and Willow Grove Avenue, the Traffic Safety Officer is recommending a change to the existing parking regulations on Traymore Avenue from "Parking Prohibited" to "No Stopping or Standing".

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb), carried unanimously, to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-32, Schedule IX, Parking Prohibited, by repealing the existing parking regulations on the west side of Traymore Avenue from the northwest curblineline of Willow Grove Avenue and Traymore Avenue, to a point 150 feet northerly thereof.

Motion (Maxwell-Lee), carried unanimously, to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-37, Schedule XIV, No Stopping Any Time, by prohibiting vehicles from stopping or standing on the west side of Traymore Avenue from its intersection with Willow Grove Avenue to a point 150 feet northerly thereof.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda, and announced that the applications and plans are on file with the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Mr. Cobb announced that in compliance with Section 609 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, at its regular public meeting on June 9, 2021, will conduct a Public Hearing on, and may vote to enact, an ordinance to consider zoning code text amendments to establish a 45-day deadline for the issuance of Use & Occupancy Certificates, and to extend the expiration of zoning relief in certain circumstances. The meeting on June 9 will begin at 7:30 PM and will be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

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

Motion (Lee-Cobb), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1533, a resolution designating May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week, and commending the performance and contributions of the individual employees of the Springfield Township Public Works Department. Mr. Cobb listed the responsibilities of the Springfield Township Public Works Department.

Mr. Cobb wished to commend and thank the Public Works Department for continuing to work through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Graham wished to thank the library staff for their efforts to continue making books and materials accessible to library patrons, particularly township students, during the pandemic.

Mr. Standish once again opened the meeting to comments or questions from the public.

Paige Brower, Traymore Avenue, addressed the Board regarding the parking problem on Traymore Avenue. She asked for an explanation as to the difference between "No Parking" and "No Stopping or Standing". Mr. Taylor explained the difference between the regulations. Ms. Brower asked who would be enforcing the new parking restrictions. She was told the Police Department is

responsible for enforcing the regulations. The Board encouraged Ms. Brower and her neighbors to call 911 when they see someone parked illegally.

Mr. Cobb noted the discussions of the Board at the Monday workshop meeting regarding digitizing agenda materials in order to make them available to residents in advance of meetings. He was encouraged by the discussions and looks forward to moving in that direction.

Mr. Graham wished to inform Betsy Wallace that the members of the Cheltenham Branch NAACP Youth Leadership Committee did not wish to be named individually in the article that Ms. Wallace is writing for the Chestnut Hill Local. Instead, they wished to be identified as a group.

Carol Lockard, Flourtown, wished to thank the Board, and some members individually, for their assistance in locating polling locations for the upcoming elections.

Mr. Harbison thanked Brian Halligan for offering the vacant former PNC Bank in Flourtown as a polling location, as well as opening the Country Club for three polling locations.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell), carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary