

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, October 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. The meeting was also offered in a live streaming feature. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Messrs. Standish and Wilson. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. No such comments were received.

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

Mr. Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Ratsavong-May) vote 5-0 dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approving same as written and recorded in the official minute book of the Township.

Mr. Lee announced that Commissioners Standish and Wilson were absent from the meeting due to prior commitments.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its October 9, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss one matter of potential litigation.

Mr. Lee invited Brian Olszak, Principal Trails and Open Space Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Commission, to conduct a presentation of the draft Springfield Township Trails and Connectivity Plan. Mr. Olszak provided a lengthy presentation of the plan. He explained its purpose, goals, and the extensive planning process, including multiple public meetings and outreach efforts. He also explained that the plan provides guidance to Springfield staff, as well as the elected and appointed officials on prioritizing important trail and connectivity projects.

Mr. Lee asked what makes a greenway a "greenway". Mr. Olszak responded that typically a neighborhood greenway is when an existing low volume street is utilized as part of the overall connectivity plan. The streets might be narrowed to slow down traffic, or markings might be added that would indicate that bicycles are permitted.

Ms. Ratsavong inquired as to a sidewalk priority plan as it relates to the implementation matrix. Mr. Olszak responded that it would be possible to pull out sidewalk sections from the matrix to create such a list.

Mr. Lee announced that written comments will be accepted through the December 13, 2023, meeting of the Board of Commissioners at which time it is anticipated that the Board will consider a resolution to adopt the Plan.

Alexandra Klinger, Wyndmoor, asked if residents would have an opportunity to comment on specific recommendations impacting their properties. Mr. Lee answered that the plan includes many different projects and each project will go through an approval process and residents will certainly have the chance to comment on the individual projects contained in the overall plan.

Mary Ellen Reeves, Glenside, asked if the presentation would be available on the website. Commissioner Lee responded that the presentation would be posted on the website, along with the entire trail plan. Ms. Reeves also asked that more clarity be included in future documents with regard to “Responsible Party and Partnerships”.

Rob Goldberg, Erdenheim, expressed his support for the Plan. He suggested that several streets in his neighborhood are already used as greenways.

Patrick Hynes, Wyndmoor, noted he is a member of the Township’s Environmental Advisory Commission and the trail planning committee. He wished to thank the Montgomery County Planning Commission for leading the planning effort and offering many ideas to make Springfield Township more walkable.

Mr. Lee reminded everyone that written comments on the Plan will be accepted through the December 13, 2023 meeting of the Board, at which time it is anticipated that the Board will adopt the Plan.

Ms. Klinger, Wyndmoor, readdressed the Board and asked about a timeline for implementation once the plan is adopted. Mr. Lee replied that there is no set timeline. It is an aspirational plan that includes many recommended projects that will be addressed individually going forward.

Mr. Cobb thanked the Montgomery County Planning Commission for their work on the plan. Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Olszak for his presentation.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were received.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee-May) vote 5-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-24, Schedule I, Speed Limits, to establish a 25 MPH speed limit on Maple Lane, Grace Lane and Fleming Road in Oreland.

The Community Development Committee had no report.

Mr. May, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. May reported for Mr. Wilson, Chairman of Environmental Resources Committee:

Mr. May announced that during the month of September 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 154.6 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 79.3%. The net cost for the month was \$26,595.89.

Mr. May reminded residents that the Township's bagged leaf waste program runs from March through December of each year. During this time, leaf waste must be bagged and placed at the curb for collection by 7 AM on your regular refuse and recycling collection day. Leaf waste includes leaves, garden residue, shrubbery, tree trimmings and similar material, but not grass clippings. Mr. May also reminded residents that it is illegal to rake or blow leaves into the street.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 5-0, to authorize the execution of an Additional Services Agreement with BL Companies, Inc. to perform soil and groundwater sampling at the former Tank Car Corporation of America property, 1725 Walnut Avenue, Oreland. The purpose of the sampling activities is to document the presence or absence of petroleum in fill material in the vicinity of an existing groundwater monitoring well (#6) located on the east side of the property near Oreland Mill Road, and to detect the presence and possible path of volatile organic compounds. The total cost of the work is \$6,285.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Administrative, Fiscal Affairs and Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 5-0, to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount of \$549,334.53, and the October bill listing in the amount of \$1,301,774.78.

Mr. Cobb announced the 2024 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Workshop	Wednesday October 18, 2023	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	Wednesday, November 8, 2023	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	Wednesday, December 13, 2023	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Wednesday, December 13, 2023	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor PA 19038.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1619, a resolution distributing the annual state allocation to the Springfield Township municipal pension plans in compliance with Pennsylvania Act 205 of 1984, the Municipal Pension Funding Standard and Recovery Act. On September 27, 2023, the Township deposited its annual state pension fund aid in the amount of \$565,305.16 which will be distributed to the Township's pension plans using a formula provided by the Township's pension fund actuary.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 5-0, to reappoint Bee, Bergvall and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to serve as the Springfield Township Auditors to audit the Township's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2023, consistent with the audit engagement letter dated October 3, 2023. The cost of the engagement is \$25,900.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 5-0, to authorize the engagement of Marcum, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, to serve as the Springfield Township Business Tax Compliance Auditors. All services shall be performed at the sole discretion of the Township and shall be in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Pennsylvania Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and any applicable Township Ordinances and Regulations. The hourly rate shall be \$175 per hour. Prior to executing the letter of engagement, it shall be in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb read into the record the Zoning Hearing Board agenda and announced that copies of all applications are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chair of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Ms. Ratsavong announced that the Springfield Township Recreation Center Advisory Committee was created in January 2023 to provide guidance to the Board of Commissioners regarding the future use and renovation of the Township's recreation center, 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The committee will explore renovations that may be necessary to address existing building deficiencies, and to accommodate the current and anticipated recreational needs of the community. In order to complete this work, the Committee has created a Request for Proposals to select an architectural or engineering firm, or a team of consultants to assist in this regard.

Motion (Ratsavong-Cobb) vote 5-0 to authorize the advertisement of a Request for Proposals to conduct a Needs Assessment, Master Site Plan and Design Services for the Springfield Township Recreation Center. The scope of services shall also include a conditions assessment of the existing facilities, design development services, construction documents, bidding and construction administration services. The Request for Proposals is written in such a fashion that the Township may award each phase of work separately before proceeding to the next sequential phase. Proposals are due no later than December 1, 2023, unless extended by the Township.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Christine Hesser. Orelan, asked for confirmation that groundwater sampling would be performed at the former Tank Car Corporation of America property at multiple locations on the property. Messrs. Lee and Taylor confirmed that would be the case.

Motion (Maxwell-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary/Manager