

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 11, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, December 11, 2024 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. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported that no public 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 (Wilson-McNamara) carried unanimously 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 noted that Andrew Freimuth was in attendance representing the Township Solicitor's office.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its workshop meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 to discuss two litigation matters.

Mr. Lee also announced that following the business meeting, the Board would conduct a budget hearing for the 2025 Budget, as well as a special meeting to close out the business of 2024, and to adopt the 2025 Budget.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Alexandra Klinger, Wyndmoor, addressed the Board regarding the \$1 million dollar investment that the Board made to preserve open space at 380-402 Haws Lane. Ms. Klinger attended the recent meeting of the Planning Commission and was pleased to learn of several safeguards that have been put into place to preserve the integrity of the open space.

Terry Hepner, Flourtown, addressed the Board regarding the same property on Haws Lane. Ms. Hepner stated her understanding that there is an inventory of trees to be removed, and asked how she may access that inventory. She also inquired if there is an inventory of trees to be saved. Mr. Taylor provided a detailed explanation of the activities to date on the site. He explained that the developer was given limited permission to demolish the structures on the developer's portion of the property, and in order to demolish the structures, was permitted to remove 11 trees that were previously approved for removal. Mr. Taylor confirmed that no activity has taken place on the

township portion of the site to date. With regard to the inventory of trees to be removed, Mr. Taylor offered to provide that information to Ms. Hepner upon request.

Joyce Petrenchak, Erdenheim, stated she is a member of the Springfield Open Space Group. Ms. Petrenchak offered the group's help to protect the Township's investment at the property. Ms. Ratsavong asked how many active members there are in the Springfield Open Space Group. She was told there are four board members, and that a mailing list maintained by group contains over 200 names.

Alexandra Klinger readdressed the Board and suggested that it would be beneficial to their group if a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee would attend the meetings of the Springfield Open Space Group. She expressed her belief that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should include members whose expertise is in the area of ecology, environment, botany, etc.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated November 25, 2024 from Bernadette Kearney, Esq., on behalf of Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 120 West Wissahickon Avenue, Flourtown, extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period through April 30, 2025. The subject of the application is the construction of a new building addition, off-street parking spaces, a landscaped courtyard and tennis courts. The extension of time will allow the applicant the opportunity to revise their plans in order to comply with the Springfield Township Code.

Motion (Wilson-May) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1652, a resolution granting a waiver to the preliminary/final land development review process for Stephen and Mary Kurtz, 1150 Mermaid Lane, Wyndmoor. The subject of the waiver is the construction of a 576 square foot storage shed in the rear yard of the property to store equipment for the family's roofing and siding business. The shed will be constructed over an existing asphalt pavement parking lot. The waiver is conditioned upon the owner acquiring all required permits prior to the start of construction.

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1653, a resolution granting a waiver to the preliminary/final land development review process for The Schoolhouse, 15 West Wissahickon Avenue, Flourtown. The subject of the waiver is the construction of 17 off-street parking spaces for use by employees of the existing preschool/day care facility. The parking spaces will be constructed of a grass paver system that prevents soil compaction and provides a porous condition for the absorption of stormwater. The waiver is conditioned upon the owner acquiring all required permits prior to the start of construction. In addition, the Township Engineer shall approve the installation method for the grass paver system, including appropriate subsurface soil preparation.

Ms. Ratsavong inquired what measures are in place in the event of the failure of the pavers. Mr. Taylor said the Solicitor's office is currently working on an Operations and Maintenance Agreement that sets forth the responsibilities of The Schoolhouse in the event of a failure.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) carried unanimously to appoint Joseph Devine and David Sands to new, three-year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Historical Commission. The new terms of service for both individuals shall expire December 31, 2027.

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

Motion (Cobb-McNamara) carried unanimously to approve the November check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,229,754.36 and the December bill listing in the amount of \$631,460.68.

Mr. Cobb announced that the 2025 agency meeting schedule will remain substantially the same as the 2024 meeting schedule. The Board of Commissioners will continue to meet each month on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM, as well as the Monday preceding the second Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Mr. Cobb announced that the Walnut Avenue Master Plan Steering Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM at the Township Administration Building. The Recreation Center Advisory Committee will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Free Library of Springfield Township.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda and announced that copies of the applications and plans are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Motion (Cobb-McNamara) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1654, a resolution appointing Jennifer Guckin and Michael Davey to new, three-year terms of service as a member and alternate member, respectively, of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. The new terms of service for both individuals will expire December 31, 2027.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chair of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, had no report.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of November 2024, Springfield Township residents recycled 146.3 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 72.2%. The net cost for the month was \$19,191.30.

Mr. May announced that the Township's annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program will begin on January 6, 2025, and will run through January 17, 2025. Mr. May provided instructions on how to properly prepare a Christmas tree for collection.

Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Ms. McNamara announced that on December 5, 2024, a bid opening was conducted for the Hillcrest Pond Dredging Project. Three bids were received ranging from \$95,000 to \$350,000 for the base bid, and \$25 per cubic yard to \$50 per cubic yard for the alternate bid.

Motion (McNamara-Wilson) carried unanimously to award a contract to Xavier Landscaping, Inc. of Pocono Pines, PA for their low base bid in the amount of \$95,000 for the removal of 3,000 cubic yards of sediment as well as the alternate bid in the amount of \$25 per cubic yard which will be exercised under the direction of the Township Engineer up to a maximum of \$50,182. Mrs. McNamara stated that the project will be completed using a combination of American Recovery Plan Act funds in the amount of \$135,182 and a donation from the Friends of Hillcrest Pond in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. Morris, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Morris-Cobb) carried unanimously to appoint Sarah LoGiudice and Marianne Sunderland to new, three-year terms of service as members of the Library Advisory Committee. The new terms of service for both individuals shall expire December 31, 2027.

Mr. Morris announced that On July 4, 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250th birthday of the founding of our country. In response, the Pennsylvania General Legislature has created the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semi quincennial (America250PA) to commemorate the occasion and to celebrate Pennsylvania's integral role in the founding of the nation.

Motion (Morris-Ratsavong) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1655, a resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United Staes Semi quincennial and encouraging all Springfield Township and Montgomery County residents to join in the celebration.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was received.

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) carried unanimously to adjourn the business meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor,
Secretary