Springfield Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes August 22, 2019

Chairperson Dawn Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Bobb Carson, Steve Smith, Angela Kelly and Brian Hague present.

Motion by Steve Smith, seconded by Bobb Carson, to approve the minutes of August 7, 2019. All in favor. Motion carries.


- Change “proven” for “certified” in the definition of Primary Residence.
- Make other small grammatical changes.


- In definitions, change “Domestic Animal” to read, “Any of the following shall be considered one domestic animal:
  - One equine animal or bovine animal or wild or semi-wild animal, sheep, goat, pig; or,
  - Five or more poultry, bird, fowl, confined hares, rabbits or minks.
- The Commission endorsed the framework of utilizing the state requirement for a Manure Management Plan as the basis of enforcement rather than specific animal counts for A1, A8 and H5 uses. This will serve to educate owners on the state law as well as keep the Township from needing to count or weigh animals. The Commission members will review the state published Manure Management Manual to ensure it’s sufficiently detailed for the Township’s purpose.
- H5 accessory animal uses will keep the minimum lot size of 2 acres.
- The Commission kept the current prohibition on roosters in the VC and VR districts, as well as the requirement for enclosures.
- The Commission considered adopting the state law’s definition of Dog Establishment for use A6 Kennel versus the Township’s unique definition.
- The Commission is willing to remove the requirement for soundproofing a dog kennel in favor of enforcing the noise standards applicable to the district in which the kennel is located per Chapter 154.
- The biggest public health problem associated with A6 uses is proper disposal of dog waste. The current state law does not address dog waste as a public health issue or pollutant to surface and ground water. The Commission reviewed the USDA’s guidance on dog waste from the state of Alaska for potential solutions.

Agritourism and Accessory Ag uses—Steve Smith led the discussion after providing several policy papers on the topic. He suggested the A2 and A9 uses should be combined into Accessory Ag uses, with 3 major subcategories: retail sales of products from the farm, special events (weddings and events with invited guests), and tourism (wineries, tastings and events with not-specifically-invited guests).

- Retail sales of products within 50 miles of the farm is probably too generous as it encompasses products that could source from as far as the City of Philadelphia.
• Special events should be capped at some number (6/year?) and number of invited guest (200 or less?) with no sale of food/beverages. Farm to table dinners should be similarly capped.
• Tourism events will be harder to regulate and monitor so they don’t become de facto retail uses instead of accessory ag uses.

Mike Brown is to provide a list of all properties within the Township greater than 15 acres that would qualify for current A9 uses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown
Township Manager