

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

February 13, 2018

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Dave Long, Rob Zisko, Jim Nilsen, Tony Matzura.

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced the Board met in executive session to hear a report from the police chief on officer scheduling.

Mr. Long pointed out the minutes had an error where the road department equipment was listed for sale. Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Mr. Matzura, to approve the January 23, 2018 minutes with that correction. All in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment

Arianne Elinich informed the Board that the Adelpia Gateway pipeline project was up for FERC approval and the window to become an intervenor had closed. She encouraged the Board to become an intervenor out of time.

Business

Reorganization of Park and Rec Board with Open Space Committee—Mr. Zisko suggested that because both organizations were under staffed, and because the money to fund conservation easements was dwindling, there could be efficiency gained through combining the two groups. The process to accomplish the merger would be to repeal both ordinances that established the groups separately and pass a new ordinance that defined the duties, authority and membership of a new organization. The Township Manager suggested that because the 2nd Class Township Code had more definitive requirements for Park and Rec Board membership, the Township should err on the side of meeting those requirements.

The Board offered the following guidance for a new enabling ordinance:

- Combine sections 32.44 and 32.61 to create a new mission statement for the group.
- Make the organization a 7 member entity
- Residency required
- The Township Manager is tasked to draft an enabling ordinance for passage by June 30th.
- The two groups are to keep operating normally and separately until such time as another ordinance is adopted.

Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Rob Zisko, to authorize the Township staff to prepare necessary code amendments to merge the Open Space Committee and Park and Rec Board. In favor—Bedics, Long, Nilsen, Zisko. Opposed—Matzura. Motion carries.

Police Task Tracking policy—The Chief offered the Board an example of the old reporting system officers used to perform. The Chief discontinued that system when he took over because the additional paperwork didn't produce anything of value and took up substantial time. He offered to reinstitute the system, or any other system the Board wished for data collection on officer labor accountability. After discussion, the Board opted not to change any current practices or impose any new reporting requirements.

Dual Use of Peppermint Park —In response to a resident's concern about the use of farming chemicals, the Board discussed the dual use of the park. The Board concluded it would continue with the current lease and notification arrangement and close the parking lot and post notices for 2 weeks after application.

The Board received the following citizen comments:

- Dave Bretz—would prefer no chemical use, but absolutely not Crossroads.
- Anthony Renner (farmer with lease)—willing to keep herbicide use to 2,4-D. Minimizes use because of cost. Plans to spray only once this season.
- Arianne Elinich—EAC researched this topic and concluded chemicals shouldn't be used in a public park.
- Frank Hollenbach—park closure times should reflect the half life of the chemical in use.
- Lorna Yearwood—improve park signage to warn people of danger of chemicals.
- Sue Ziegler—Add signage at Deer Trail Road and near rain garden to ensure walkers get notified

Septic Management violations—The Township Manager reported there were roughly 700 non-compliant properties as of the end of 2017. He will send warning letters to these properties to provide one last chance to comply before beginning prosecutions.

Public Comments:

Frank Hollenbach expressed dissatisfaction with the Township's reporting on conservation easement acquisitions. He asked that the Appendix in the Open Space Plan be updated annually with the list of eased properties and the money spent on each.

Supervisor Comments:

Tony Matzura and Jim Nilsen reported their "Boot Camp" classes were done and very informative.

Karen Bedics asked for an answer to her question about returning the radar board purchased in January and suggested the Township hire a temp data entry person to finish inputting the survey responses.

Dave Long said the Board needed to discuss authorship of the Comp Plan revisions once the survey results were tabulated. He also said the Community Day events were going to have to be pared back from the original scope because of a lack of volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown, Township Manager

Approved: