

**SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
WORK SESSION –STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**MARCH 30, 2021
APPROVED**

The Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors held a Strategic Planning Work Session on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Springettsbury Township located at 1501 Mt. Zion Road, York, PA in person and by Zoom technology.

MEMBERS IN

ATTENDANCE: Mark Swomley, Chairman
George Dvoryak, Vice Chairman
Charles Wurster, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Don Bishop
Robert Cox

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Mark Hodgkinson, Township Manager
Abby Gibb, Communications Manager
Jean Abreght, Stenographer

1. CALL TO ORDER

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Strategic Planning. The meeting had been advertised for any and all township business.

2. NEW BUSINESS

HODGKINSON Mr. Hodgkinson noted that Abby Gibb would be working on a shared screen to type some of the discussion points. He noted several topics for discussion including Parks and Recreation, Commitment to Equality, Comprehensive Review of Zoning Ordinances and Environmental Stewardship.

Parks and Recreation

HODGKINSON Mr. Hodgkinson had provided documentation for the board's review. He offered some thoughts to begin the discussion, such as revitalization of neighborhood parks; programming, Comp Plan for the Parks; Masterplan.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster stated that an important element is to be properly staffed with a Director of Parks and Recreation. He noted the Comprehensive Plan of 2007 included a Parks Buildout Plan which identified challenges with the parks with a need to have a longer-term revitalization/upgrade plan of some of the existing parks and to explore the development of North Hills Park. Consideration of Saturday in the Park (refresh); Summer Concert Series (revamp), Christmas Tree Lighting (expand) Sponsorships (maximize), Community Room (naming right sponsors); Library Services consistent with estate funds in the Community Room, Springettsbury Township as a Destination; Camp Security-Complete the archeological digs to create a historical resource.

COX Mr. Cox noted that Augustus Schaefer Park is being renovated, which will add to the availability of parks. He added that when the Police Building is constructed, parking will be expanded for the main park facility. That will benefit the mothers who bring children to the park.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster noted that Park Renovation is a larger-term commitment which includes integrating pieces into the Capital Plan. He questioned the relationship with all the stakeholders, the EYC Football and other athletic organizations such as York Little League.

Additional discussion held, which is summarized:

- ✓ No charge to Little League at this time
 - Small enrollment from Springettsbury residents
 - Valuable to community youth
 - Outside area residents visiting businesses in township
 - Field maintenance, costs influence field allocation
- ✓ Basketball Leagues – Blacktop Bash uses all three courts; very popular
 - Brings people into the township visiting businesses
 - Partnerships to be nurtured
 - Important to not get overloaded with events; current staffing to be reviewed
 - Relay for Life?
 - Sell out advertising for Concert Series
 - Gather sponsors for Christmas Tree Lighting
 - Some parks programs not necessary; NYC trips.

Additional subjects discussed:

- Camp Security – History but may not be destination; continued digs
- Disc Golf Nationals could draw people
- Casino should draw from Lancaster, Adams, Northern MD and Dauphin Counties
- Public spaces in the Town Center Overlay; tiny park, half court basketball
- Connect township park to Rocky Ridge; area trails/Transportation Plan
- Pump Station-City Sewer Plant; expanded facility

Township’s Commitment to Equality.

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley commented that every single time a Police Officer is sworn in along with any elected official, a note is recited that outlines the township’s commitment to equality. It has been taken very seriously, which has been demonstrated by outreach to communities and organizations within the community to foster those relationships. Chairman Swomley noted that equality has different meanings in different people’s eyes, and he wanted to make sure that it is understood that the township is offering equal opportunity for all; not equal outcome for all, and that is driven by each individual’s desire to achieve.

Additional discussion is summarized:

- Employment opportunities reach out to all different populations
- Desire to be multi-racial; reach minority populations
- Hiring based on qualifications of the job
- Make sure communications are intentional into the community
- Vacancies on Boards and Commissions communicated to various communities
- Increase equality and participation by getting the Boards filled
- Two positions open for a Supervisor position
- Message of commitment to diversity important to be communicated
- Police Department has one African American; others of mixed race; three females
- Collaborate with Chief King as openings occur
- County Consortium is struggling for candidates
- Township’s continued support and reaffirmation of the police helpful
- A Volunteer crisis exists; needs right formula/leadership to attract valuable people
- Advertised volunteer positions need more in-depth info about requirements

Comprehensive Review of Zoning Ordinances

BISHOP Mr. Bishop commented that a Zoning Ordinance Review is a huge task, not easy and hard to understand.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster stated that it is a daunting task and a challenge.

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley noted that each time a change is made it must not do more harm than good to the overall picture.

HODGKINSON Mr. Hodgkinson questioned whether it would be better to hire a professional firm to do a number of reviews every year and make suggestions.

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley noted that several different things need to happen.

- 1) Reconcile anything that is at odds with state and federal law and should be cleaned up so that they recognize the higher level rather than trying to redefine things at a lower level that might be at odds.
- 2) Determine whether they make sense for Springettsbury.
- 3) Do they flow across our demographic; across our physical boundaries.
- 4) How do they impact the people who live here?
- 5) Are they uniform?

Further discussion took place, which is summarized:

- Manage the professionals who have their own ideas
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania creates the complication
- Examine the code to find low-hanging fruit/obsolete
- Setbacks are still setbacks
- RV screening; four wheelers
- Airbnb
- Zoning Officer can only interpret the law, not make the law
- Can be read and interpreted multiple ways; gray area
- Signage is a huge zoning issue: number of signs, types, where located, how long

BISHOP Mr. Bishop suggested an approach to the task could be to break it into a number of steps to develop a Statement of Purpose of Zoning Ordinances in Springettsbury Township. Define the goals and go from there.

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley noted that there is a need to hire a professional to review any areas where the township is at odds with higher authority; get those cleaned up.

Environmental Stewardship.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster posed the question as to whether Recycling really matters. He understood that the metals have some value, as does the resin in the plastic. At one point a lot of the U.S. recycled materials went to China, which has scaled back, and there isn't as much of a market for it. If it makes sense then the township needs to have more recycling facilities, for instances places in park during concert times. He noted he was aware of the staffing issues.

BISHOP Mr. Bishop asked whether the township has an option with Pennsylvania in terms of curbside recycling. He added that having the township “going the extra mile to look for every opportunity to encourage recycling” is probably a waste.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster commented that he had talked both to Penn Waste and representatives of the incinerator, and both want plastic with value in resin.

Further discussion is summarized:

- One commodity is resin for value toward oil prices
- Boy Scouts “Leave No Trace” hiking is Environmental Stewardship
- Assure it gets into a bin, not dumping oil down the sewer
- Electric vehicles/alternative fuels; non-friendly energy produced by gas, oil
- Problem is a lot more complex
- Windmills are more detrimental to environment than people understand
- Continue the course on MS4; communicate well; why impacts; how to handle
- Stream Bank Restoration; preventing deposits into Susquehanna on to the Bay
- Solar panels on top of buildings with footprint on ground; not a solar farm

- Fertilizer products hot topic in York County
- Farmers starting to point seeds and point fertilizer into ground
- Place contact info of elected state officials to township residents and encourage them to change the laws that allow cities like Harrisburg to dump raw sewage into the Susquehanna River.
- Smaller cities actually doing a good job of controlling their pollution
- Springettsbury Township has done a good job in this category
- Promote the township’s successes as example to other municipalities

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen K. Bowders
Secretary

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