

MINUTES

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 520 PARK DRIVE BOILING SPRINGS, PA. 17007

WORKSHIOP MEETING MARCH 26, 2009

PRESENT: Bryan Gembusia, Ron Reeder, Jim Baker, Rick Reighard, Tom Faley (absent) – Supervisors; Richard Mislitsky – Solicitor; Barb Wilson – Manager; Jarrett Sweeney – Assistant Manager, Brian O’Neill- Engineer, Tim Duerr – Zoning Officer, Sandy Quickel – Recording Secretary, Jim Barnes, Mary Ann Taylor, Mary Zeigler.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Gembusia.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION:

Jim would like to keep farms from turning into developments. He would like to see at least 1 farm per year enter into Agricultural Preservation. There are 2 farms in SMT that are on the County’s list, but they are ranked #12 & #15 on the list. Rick suggested speaking with the people that want to place their farms in Agricultural Preservation. Barb said that the first step is to place the property into the Agricultural Security Area. He would like to convince the county that the Township will pay one-half of the cost to preserve a property. Three farms Jim suggested were the Myers Farm, Belt Farm & the Dickinson College Farm. Jim asked if he could speak to Dickinson College representatives about this issue. The College previously declined this option to preserve the land. Ron said he does not want any money going towards the Myers Farm since this farm was to be sold to the school district several years ago. In addition, the Myers Farm is ineligible because it is zoned residential.

DISCUSSIONS WITH DICKINSON COLLEGE:

This was discussed in the Agricultural Preservation discussion.

5-YEAR ROAD PLAN:

Barb submitted the Roadmaster’s 5-year road plan. The 2009 paving projects are estimated to cost \$300,000, but only \$200,000 has been budgeted for roadwork. There is a special project estimated at \$15,000 to mill out, resurface & install a catch basin at the underpass on Petersburg Road near the dragway. It was thought to not bid the Whiskey Springs Road project since this road has work done every year to it, & to do all or one-half of Frost Road. Rick questioned the special project. Barb said she would like to do this project. Ron added that Fire Company #36’s new fire truck has a problem clearing the underpass on Petersburg Road. Barb also noted that the Township’s 1 dump truck has problems clearing this underpass.

RESTF:

Bryan said that there was a meeting last Saturday. Steve Bair from State Centre Region COG attended the meeting & discussed their regional fire services program, along with Parks & Recreation & Codes Enforcement. He suggested forming a firebase authority. The RESTF group voted to move forward with this process.

BUILDING PROJECT:

Rick commented that he hopes DEP may issue the Township's NPDES permit by the end of April. Ron noted that DEP has stalled many projects, & are costing developers a lot of money. Barb said she will contact DEP on April 6 for progress on the permit. The project has to be advertised for a month before the permit is issued.

LONG TERM GOALS FOR PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

Barb read the goals. They include: 1) Complete development of Spring Meadows Park based on the recreation needs of the Township; 2) Extend the trail system; 3) Connect the existing parks to the village of Boiling Springs & the School District using trails & easements; 4) Reduce the number of "pocket parks" (Indian Hills); & 5) Increase the number of recreation programs offered through the Township. Ron does not agree that Indian Hills is a pocket park, & that another small park may be needed in another area of the Township. Jim agreed & said that residents use this park a lot. Barb said that the park master plan was done 15 years ago & needs to be redone. Rick suggested looking at population growth for future planning & how parks fit into the plan. Jim feels there will be more development once the economy crisis is over. Rick does not want to eliminate pocket parks. Bryan suggested reviewing this issue on a case-by-case basis.

Jim asked the Board if one of the Township's goals is to preserve farms. He was told yes.

CHILDREN'S LAKE PLAN B:

Rick mentioned the meeting with the Fish & Boat Commission regarding the lake. There are no plans to fill in the lake, & they (F&B) will keep the lake as is & maintain it. Mary Ann Taylor asked if the Municipal Authority would be interested in ownership of the lake. She feels that a local contact & control of the lake is needed. Rick said that they are not interested. Jim stated that the gazebo at the lake was vandalized. Jim Barnes said that benches were also vandalized.

LIAISON ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Rick commented on the items for consideration. They include factory farm ordinance – Jim has not researched this issue. Ethanol plant ordinance – no action. Karst ordinance – it was felt that the sample ordinance previously submitted is too restrictive. B.S. Liveable Communities – a revised map has been received from the County & the ordinance can be advertised.

WEBSITE – LONG TERM PLANS:

Bryan reported that a Google Search box can be added to the website, interface updates will be done, & layout of the menu will be reviewed.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jim Barnes asked if the Township maintains the Indian Hills Park, & what does the park consist of. He was told yes. There is a detention pond, 2 practice fields, 2 soccer fields, baseball & softball fields. He asked if the public can use this park. He was told yes. A lot of youth organizations use this park. Mr. Barnes asked about the B.S. Liveable Communities as far as lighting & a safe route to school. Barb replied that the Township has not heard if they will receive a grant. The amount requested was \$250,000, but \$100,000 was budgeted for this year from grant receipts.

Mary Ann Taylor suggested keeping tot lots in mind when constructing parks. She also asked about the Parks & Recreation Naming Policy. The B.S. Civic Association contributed money towards a pavilion at Spring Meadows Park & they want to name it. She was told that the request needs to be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Board before the Supervisors act on it. Ms. Taylor asked about the Heritage zoning for the village area. She was told that this is part of the B.S. Liveable Communities.

Jim Barnes mentioned litter on Park Drive & thought it might be from the Dickinson College Farm.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

WITNESS:

Sandra A. Quickel, Secretary

**SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Bryan A. Gembusia, Chairman

Walter G. Reighard, Vice Chairman

Ronald L. Reeder

James N. Baker

Thomas E. Faley