

Minutes of
**TOWNSHIP BOARD AND PARK
COMMISSION JOINT MEETING**
April 9, 2019

SPRINGFIELD
CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Laura Moreau, Clerk

Call to Order: Supervisor Walls called the April 9, 2019 Joint Meeting of the Springfield Township Board and Springfield Township Park Commission to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Rd., Davisburg, MI 48350.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

Park Commissioners Present

Roger Bower	Chairperson
Diane Baker	Park Commissioner
Jean Vallad	Park Commissioner
Anne Loncar	Park Commissioner
Angela Spicer	Park Commissioner
Dennis Omell	Park Commissioner (Arrived at 6:21 pm)

Park Commissioners Absent

Rich Parke	Park Commissioner
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Staff present:

Sarah Richmond, Parks and Recreation Director
Mike Forst, Property Manager
Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager

New Business:

1. Senior Services Master Plan Discussion

Supervisor Walls explained that, based on changing demographics and general changes in community, the Township is looking at how to better serve seniors. Supervisor Walls hasn't had the opportunity to do anything else since the last meeting, but a committee will be formed which will include representatives from Parks and Recreation and the Library.



2. Mill Pond Dam Feasibility Study Update

Clerk Moreau provided an update regarding the study and the first public information meeting that was held on March 5. Approximately 75 citizens attended that meeting and more than 50 have requested to be on a distribution list for future updates and notices. Information boards from the meeting are on display in the lobby outside the library. Also, a web page was created for Mill Pond Dam on the Township website for information and updates on the feasibility study and background information and minutes of the Mill Pond Park Committee.

A notice went out to the distribution list about the new web page and to announce that the next public information meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22. The 90% complete report is expected by the end of April. The report will be distributed to members of the Board, Park Commission and Planning Commission and then will be posted to the web page for the public to review at least two weeks prior to the May 22 meeting. There also will be a special meeting of the Township Board to develop a decision matrix with the engineers which will be held on Thursday, June 6.

Clerk Moreau distributed a map of the Shiawassee River corridor in Springfield Township with public land identified as owned by the Township, Oakland County or Michigan DNR. A second map was provided showing the land immediately surrounding Mill Pond Dam. Clerk Moreau noted that Springfield Township owns Mill Pond Park, but Rotary Park, the dam and the land under Mill Pond are all owned by Oakland County. The feasibility study is being conducted jointly by the Township and Oakland County Parks & Recreation (OCPR). The expense is being shared through an interlocal agreement to maintain the dam. The maintenance agreement is based on each party's property frontage on the Mill Pond; OCPR is responsible for 55% of the financial obligation and Springfield Township is responsible for 45%. Moreau stated it's important to recognize that, although the Township is participating in the study, ultimately the property is owned by Oakland County.

Clerk Moreau asked if there are any questions or if anyone had anything to add. No questions or additional details were offered.

3. Maintenance Facility Planning Update

Supervisor Walls stated the Maintenance Facility Committee, comprised of Mike Forst, Mike Losey, Sarah Richmond, Anne Loncar, Dave Hooper and himself, met on January 23. At that meeting, the Committee discussed possible locations for a building. A mock-up drawing that Mike Forst had sketched of the building at what might be the ideal location



was presented. The committee believes that the area west of the Civic Center sign along the drive to the ball fields would be ideal. Supervisor Walls stated that Mike Forst, Mike Losey and Sarah Richmond had all compiled their current and potential future equipment into an excel document that could then be used to have a designer that Mark Yovich works with create a sketch of the building.

Director Richmond stated that since the location proposed by the committee is currently a prairie planting, which was planted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds, she reached out to them to see about the stipulations of the grant for the planting. She reported that the grant stipulations expire this year so that would not be an obstacle moving forward for the project.

Supervisor Walls stated that the next step would be to send all the information to Mark Yovich to have a sketch plan created for the potential building.

4. Hartman Property Committee Update

Supervisor Walls stated that the Committee held a meeting on January 23. Planning has been stalled while the Committee waits for information from CN Railroad regarding the existing access. A response was finally received but so far no details have been received about adding pedestrian access at the Township's existing crossing. Director Richmond distributed photos of the property showing the damage to the culvert caused by beavers damming the river.

Natural Resources Manager, Mike Losey explained that several beavers were trapped and removed from the site. They will continue to monitor the property and be able to remove the dams and/or the beavers before they become a problem. Mr. Losey described the habitat restoration activities on the property which are funded by grant sources. He estimates that grants will fund approximately \$20,000 of work on the Hartman properties.

Director Richmond explained that her staff is doing what they can to address some maintenance issues. They will focus on work on the south side of the river due to the culvert and access challenges. Tree work is being done along the access drive off Marquoit. There are two decks on the property that are not safe and need to be removed. There is also a garage that needs to be taken down and several trees that need to be removed and stumps ground.



5. Civic Center Pathway Loop Priority Discussion

Director Richmond stated that this project had been discussed previously when there was discussion of improving the Storybook Trail. It was stated that it would be nice to continue the pathway by the Shiawassee Basin Preserve pavilion, which was redone in limestone from the Storybook Trail, to the playscape down near the meadow to the main Civic Center drive so that it could connect to the existing asphalt pathway.

Director Richmond stated that if there is a pathway to the play structure it would increase accessibility, which was a priority in the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The last 150 to 200 feet would either require fill or some type of retaining wall, which is something that needs to be considered with the project.

Since neither the Township Board or the Park Commission has this project budgeted in their 2019 budgets it was decided it would be best to get estimates and plan for it in the 2020 budget year.

6. Public Comment

Supervisor Walls requested that personal notices are sent to property owners around Mill Pond prior to the next public information meeting. Walls explained that he received a request to notice all residents but that is not possible; however, he believes that properties within 300 feet could be sent a notice, similar to what is done for zoning matters.

Adjourned: 6:55 p.m

Collin W. Walls, Supervisor

Laura Moreau, Clerk