

**SILVER SPRING TOWNSHIP
CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Date: 6 January 2010.

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.

Place: Silver Spring Township Municipal Bldg.

Members Present: Dennis Hrzic, Jeff Kelly, David Lenker, Mary Lou Pierce-McLain, John Murphy, George Weimer, Susan Zalesky and Maryann Demagall.

Staff Present: Bill Cook, Township Manager.

Others Present: John Diener, Georgianne Diener, Lionel Spenard, Creeden Sunday, Dolores Sunday, Robert Sunday, and Steve Sunday.

Public Comment: Georgianne and John Diener attended an AT meeting in Carlisle and distributed brochures pertaining to the AT. They **suggested inviting some folks from the AT Conservancy to attend one of our meetings** and to expect a lot of support from them. They provided Denny Hrzic with names of persons associated with the local AT Conservancy. John said that the property owned by the National Park Service (NPS) varies and that the AT has migrated over the years. He believes that a **uniform width in an ordinance should not apply to everyone** and believes that a meeting with Middlesex Township personnel is “too premature” at this time.

Steve Sunday said that a person was **on his property with a GIS (Geographic Information System) to establish AT boundaries**. Steve mentioned that a buffer problem exists where the line crosses the Turnpike. Nearby, the NPS bought some land, which he projects to be about 300 feet along with several other pieces.

Robert Sunday has concerns about the **safety of AT hikers crossing the bridge over the Turnpike**. He recommends that officials look at the safety of this part of the AT and perhaps build a footbridge for the hikers’ safety. Dave Lenker suggested that a road sign could be used to warn the vehicle drivers about AT hikers walking on the road.

Robert Sunday asked if there were any **restrictions in the AT zone for building a garage or designating a parking area**. A committee member suggested he contact Jim Hall, the Township Zoning Officer about this matter.

BUSINESS:

Chairman’s Report: A new Board liaison was announced for the Conservation and Preservation Committee. **Mary Lou Pierce-McLain, the outgoing liaison, introduced Supervisor Dave Lenker as the new Board Liaison for the committee**. Chairman Denny Hrzic relayed to all that this **meeting would be an all-inclusive Appalachian Trail (AT) and Act 24 (AT Trail Protection)** one. It also was stressed that this committee would make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to comply with the state law.

Conservation and Preservation:

Appalachian Trail Protection Act (Act 24):

John Murphy of Alpha Consulting Engineers as well as a member of this committee gave a **presentation, which included background information about the AT Protection Act, and handouts and discussion about establishing a Township line** since some residents' property is split between Middlesex and Silver Spring Townships. These handouts included **surveying procedures for establishing a township line, historical maps and information about Cumberland County towns and townships, and excerpts from a supplement to "Research Township Boundaries" by Michael F. Brinkash.** Another handout was a series of maps prepared by Cumberland County Planning Dept. showing the AT with various legends depicting features surrounding the Trail.

Jeff Kelly of the Cumberland County Planning Dept. and also a member of this committee said the **maps presented are the official ones used by the County assessment office and are the most accurate to date.** When asked about progress of other townships in regard to action on Act 24, Jeff said Middlesex Township proposed restrictions in agricultural zones and the buffer starts at the AT property line. Monroe Township proposes 300 feet from the center of the AT.

Other Business:

Denny Hrzic announced that **members of the AT Conservancy are to be invited to the next meeting,** which will be held on **Monday, Feb. 1, 2010** at the Township building.