



February 24th Meeting Minutes

We had 12 attendees including special guests from Springfield Township. Andy Seiter, Property inspector, And Lieutenant Brian Uhl, police department and director of innovation committee.

\$26 Donations collected

Andy Seiter presentation at this meeting:

- 1) Meeting started with Andy Seiter discussing ways for Township to be more innovated and efficient at using tax money.
- 2) Township set up Office of innovation and sustainability. Andy Seiter will be director.
- 3) An EPIC team (Employees Promoting Innovation Change) team is formed to bring new ideas and change to the township
- 4) EPIC team consists 5 members, one of each from Police, Fire, Public works, Administration departments along with Andy leading the team.
- 5) EPIC team will meet every month to look at different things from different perspectives on unique challenges.
- 6) Andy explained “NEAT STREETS” program EPIC team came up with. Florida and Massachusetts that have similar programs called “NEAT STREETS TWO”. Also popular in UK.
 - “NEAT STREETS” is a partnership between township and communities to form a group.
 - Andy would like to organize two cleanup events or more in Sevenhills with SHAG coordinating.
 - Put signs up at the two neighborhood entrances (Roosevelt Sevenhills Dr) stating this is a “NEAT STREETS” neighborhood, Similar to the neighborhood watch signs.
 - Township will provide resources such as bags, pickup sticks. Public works will haul trash away.
 - This will be a continuing program, not a once and done event.
 - Hoping this could be a catalyst for [a CIC \(Community Improvement Corp.\) grant](#) for beautification award similar to the Hollydale entrance at Sheffield and Toulon Dr.
 - Sat. April 25th with a rain date of May 2nd is day set aside to try this and ask church if we can use their location as a rally point.

Comments after Andy’s presentation:

- 1) Suggested doing micro cleanups where neighbors do a quick cleanup near their homes once a week or as needed.
- 2) We really appreciate what the township is doing to help us. If we’re coming off the wrong way it’s just because it’s been so frustrating going through the same problems year after year. This use to be a beautiful neighborhood. We are willing to do whatever to help.
- 3) If you run across seniors, disabled or people with medical problems who really can’t afford to fix violations please let us know before it goes through the legal process so we can help. It was really sad to see this happen last year and don’t want it to ever happen again.

Q&A after Andy's presentation:

1. **Q:** What about Businesses? **A:** Businesses still responsible for trash. Nuisance process will be started with problem properties. Andy will be the lead contact to report problems and coordinate events.
2. **Q:** Will Township provide volunteers? **A:** Township will reach out to police explorers, and different groups they work with.
3. **Q:** What to do about chronic deplorable properties that are always a problem? **A:** This is a common problem in every community. Andy will lead the process to be sure they comply with face contact of violators.
4. **Q:** What about people doing same thing for years and no fines? **A:** Those are complaint generated, and once in compliance the case is closed. We are aware of repeat violators (Junk Cars, excessive trash, high grass) and abandoned properties and know where they are . Last year, after 3 warnings and going through a legal process, we did several property cleanup and fined owner. Fine was added to property tax if not paid.
5. **Q:** What about Frost park, Wild flowers are nothing but weeds? **A:** Township already spent over \$30K on playground equipment that kids destroyed. For weeds, I will take that back to public works director and take a look at it.
6. **Q:** Will the NEAT STREETS cleanup be every month? **A:** We will help communities get started with a cleanup, but it will basically be back on the community itself to self-organize when they see issue and reach out to township for resources such as garbage bags and pickup sticks.
7. **Q:** What about liability issues getting youth under 18 to help with cleanup. **A:** Township cannot afford to use resources to do actual cleanups over and over so must be volunteers within the community. Township will reach out to business owners to be sure they do their part and will stay on it.
8. **Q:** What can we do about residents that just don't care and continue to throw trash everywhere and not maintain Rumpke service as per township agreement? **A:** We will still be in Sevenhills writing up our problem areas and holding businesses and residents accountable for trash.
9. **Q:** Can we offer incentives such as Pizza and drink to encourage volunteer? **A:** Still working out a couple of things but the goal is at noon after cleanup to rally back up at church and have pizza. Volunteers names will also be put into a hat for a drawing of some gift cards. We realize what a challenge it is to get volunteers to cleanup.

SHAG discussion after Andy's presentation:

- Talked about doing a neighborhood yard beautification and try to get businesses to donate money for prizes. We only had 3 participants last time we did it a few years back.
- Getting a shelter at Frost park for cookouts and get together similar to the one at Lexington park on Meredith.