



Board of Commissioners
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February 26, 2026

Abington Township
Board of Commissioners
1176 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001

Re: SPS Technologies Waiver of Land Development
Tookany Creek Greenway, Riparian Buffer, and Public Access Easements

Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners:

On behalf of the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners, I write regarding the land development application and waiver request submitted by SPS Technologies for reconstruction of its facility along the Tookany Creek in Abington Township. We are grateful to know that SPS will be rebuilding the facility and will continue to be a valued presence in our communities. We also appreciate that Abington Township is working to facilitate a prompt and thoughtful process so SPS can soon reopen its doors.

As an immediately adjacent municipality sharing the Tookany Creek watershed and a direct boundary with this property, we would like to take the opportunity to submit comments for your consideration. The redevelopment and reuse of the SPS property will not only benefit our communities by providing excellent jobs, but it also has the potential to provide added community and environmental benefits by preserving and restoring the greenway along Tookany Creek on the SPS site, establishing a wide, functional riparian buffer with multi-layer native plantings to stabilize streambanks, improving habitat, and enhancing water quality for upstream and downstream communities.

The Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners supports the incorporation of targeted green stormwater infrastructure, such as bioretention basins, bioswales, tree trenches, permeable paving, and subsurface infiltration, to reduce runoff volume, capture pollutants, and help meet MS4 obligations while mitigating flood and erosion risks that extend into Cheltenham Township.

In addition, we respectfully urge Abington Township to work with SPS to secure easements that would allow for future public access to the Tookany Creek corridor on this site. A continuous greenway and trail right-of-way along the SPS property would advance the multi-municipal Greenway and Trail concept already under discussion, which envisions a trail connection from Highland Avenue along Tookany Creek, a riparian forest buffer, and a tree-lined greenway setback designed to qualify for external grant funding. These easements would significantly enhance long-term opportunities to connect the Tookany Creek Trail to the regional Circuit Trails Network while providing health, recreation, and mobility benefits for residents of Abington, Cheltenham, and Jenkintown.

We understand that a multi-municipal advocacy coalition, supported by organizations such as the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, and the Circuit Trails Coalition, has presented SPS with a conceptual greenway and trail proposal structured to attract outside funding for design, construction, and long-term maintenance. We view this as a rare opportunity for Abington Township, SPS Technologies, and neighboring municipalities to cultivate a model project that advances watershed protection, climate resilience, and regional trail connectivity without placing the full financial burden on any single entity.



Accordingly, with respect to this land development, the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners supports:

- Preservation and restoration of a robust greenway and riparian buffer along Tookany Creek on the SPS parcel.
- Integration of high-performing green stormwater infrastructure consistent with Abington's MS4 and watershed goals.
- Creation of easements sufficient to enable a future public trail and greenway corridor connecting to the Tookany Creek Trail and Circuit Trails Network.
- Continued multi-municipal coordination among Abington, Cheltenham, and Jenkintown as land development decisions are made affecting the shared Tookany Creek corridor.

We respectfully request that these priorities are carefully considered in the review of SPS Technologies' land development application and any waivers from land development. We believe these priorities are consistent with regional planning efforts, including Montco 2040, watershed-focused greenway initiatives, and the emerging community-driven Greenway and Trail concept at SPS.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued collaboration on stewardship of the Tookany Creek watershed. Please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Brinker, Stormwater Coordinator, at sbrinker@cheltenhampa.gov if you would like to discuss these comments further.

Sincerely,



Matthew Aremen, President
Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners

cc: The Honorable Jamila H. Winder, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Neil Makhija, Vice Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Thomas DiBello, Montgomery County Commissioner
Scott France, AICP, Executive Director, Montgomery County Planning Commission
The Honorable Arthur L. Haywood III, Pennsylvania State Senator, 4th District
The Honorable Napoleon J. Nelson, Pennsylvania State Representative, 154th District
The Honorable Nancy Guent, Pennsylvania State Representative, 152nd District
The Honorable Benjamin V. Sanchez, Pennsylvania State Representative, 153rd District
Christopher S. Christman, Township Manager, Abington Township
George Locke, Borough Manager, Jenkintown Borough
Alyson Elliott, Acting Township Manager, Cheltenham Township
Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning, Cheltenham Township
Samantha Brinker, CPMSM, Stormwater Coordinator, Cheltenham Township

