

East Pikeland Township - Open Space Committee

March 16, 2010

1. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 7:02

2. Present: Frank Giardina, Dave Jarvie, Marilyn Randolph, John Schott, Stock Illoway, Barbara Heck, Rusty Strauss, George Irwin

Guest: Bereth Graeff, Ron Graham

Absent; None

3. The meeting opened with comments from Ron Graham expressing some of the wishes of the Supervisors with respect to the future activities of the Open Space Committee.

A. We should attempt to hold back development such as 75 homes on Ridge Road which would generate 150 cars and up to 300 kids in the schools. This location should be a target for open space protection.

B. We should "buy" whatever minimum we can to achieve our goals. Buy a trail easement not the entire property. The last resort should be outright purchase.

C. We should seek help from the Natural Lands Trust.

D. We should discuss options on already approved developments not yet built. Would the developer be interested in accepting an easement in todays "poor" building climate..

E. A general discussion on getting our funds into use.

F. We discussed putting Township owned lands under an easement to protect them in the future. Stock mentioned that land in West Vincent Township was eased to The French and Pickering Trust.

4. Barbara Heck was welcomed as a new member of the Committee

5. The Chairman acknowledged the resignation of David Toth

6. Rusty has contacted another person who has expressed interest in joining our committee.

7. Stock moved and John seconded the minutes which were unanimously approved.

8. Latshaw Property

We discussed the fact that the Latshaws are interested in proceeding with an easement on the property. Stock provided a description of the lot and it's location. Good creek frontage - farmhouse - barn in ruins - road frontage on Wall and Pikeland - pretty ground - good view shed from the road.

Marilyn moved and Stock seconded that we recommend to the Supervisors that we initiate steps to obtain a conservation easement on this property with the first step to be an appraisal of the property. The appraisal would be a two step appraisal with a \$2400 cost for a benchmark appraisal on R2 zoned property and \$1200 for the specific appraisal on the Latshaw property to be eased. This motion was passed unanimously.

We developed the "Priority Grid" for the property and recorded a figure of 101 out of 135 (very high).

The Open Space Committee hopes that this action on the Latshaw property will encourage others to proceed to ease their properties.

No sight visit was proposed at this time but the property can be assessed with a drive by up Wall toward Pikeland Road.

9. Massaro Property

Stock moved and John seconded that we direct a written recommendation to the Supervisors that we initiate negotiations to purchase the Massaro property located at 20 Nancy Lane in East Pikeland Township.

In our discussions we decided that outright purchase was the best option for the Township to take to protect this property.

The following points were to be considered by the Supervisors in proceeding with this recommendation:

A. Currently the Township owns approximately 75 percent of both sides of the French Creek in East Pikeland Township. This purchase would provide an additional 700 plus feet of stream frontage directly across from Township owned

land.

B. By purchasing the property the Township will have additional options for the trail location.

C. Possible coordination with the East Pikeland Elementary school in an adjacent property which could allow students to learn from such a valuable local asset.

9. It was announced that there is a Trails walk on Sunday the 21st.

10. Dugan Property

Limited discussions were held on this property.

11. Rusty moved and John seconded the adjournment of the meeting at 8:25

**Respectfully Submitted,
George Irwin, Secretary**
