

East Pikeland Township - Open Space Committee

January 18, 2011

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Rusty Strauss**
- 2. Present: Dave Jarvie, Stock Illoway, Rusty Strauss. Marilyn Randolph, Frank Giardina, George Irwin
Absent: John Schott, Barbara Heck
Guest: Vickie Laubach - Green Valleys**
- 3. Stock moved and Marilyn seconded the nominations of Rust Strauss as chairman, John Schott as Vice Chairman and George Irwin as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously**
- 4. Marilyn moved and Stock seconded the approval of the November 16, 2010 minutes. The motion was passed unanimously to include the correction in the spelling of Marilyn's name.**
- 5. Vickie Laubach presented to us the mission of Green Valleys and their desire to help the Township with issues associated with maintaining the trees in the Township as well as the protection of the streams and creeks in the Township.
Most of the French Creek is rated "Exceptional Value" with the exception of a good part of the creek through East Pikeland. The Pickering and Stoney Creeks are rated "High Quality. She shared the state is looking for "protective ordinances" along the streams.
She indicated that Green Valleys wants to help establishing "riparian buffers" along the streams as well as obtaining higher ratings for these streams.
Vickie will be discussing further efforts that can be taken with Biologists at the DEP.
She discussed establishing "riparian buffers" if absent. Green Valleys has taken the lead with the French and Pickering Trust to discuss stream protection with landowners.
She indicated that there is foundation funding available for tree planting along our trails where needed.**

Discussions also occurred about the status of the “ponds” in the Township which are currently private.

6. Latshaw Property - The closing for the award of an Easement on this property is scheduled for Thursday 1/27 at 3:30. As a reminder this involves 60+ acres.

7. Massaro Property - This issue has taken a back seat to the Latshaw property. It is first necessary for Massaro to obtain a mortgage modification and there have been difficulties and delays with this step.

We have offered to have our solicitor talk to the bank however it has been difficult to get banks to accept easements on properties which are mortgaged.

Massaro hasn't been getting good feedback from his bank. It was commented that the Open Space Act doesn't allow us to buy the property and then resell it with an easement on it.

There was discussion associated with the school district buying the Massaro property however there were no recommendations from the Open Space committee on this suggestion

8. Daley Property - Rusty spoke to the Realtor who is representing the owner. He would be interested in discussing an easement - 5 & ½ acres.

Stock will talk to O'Donnell, the Appraiser, to determine if there is a difference in appraisal values for “I” zoned vs. R-1.

9. Meyer Property - Gus Meyer is not particularly interested in easements on his property.

10. Excelon Property - This property has no buildings on it. Rusty will approach Excelon to determine who to contact with respect to purchase or easements on the property.

11. Rusty reported that the Supervisors were not favorably disposed to permanently easing the Township owned properties. Stock volunteered to contact them to discuss the merits of such

a step..

Stock also mentioned he will look into the availability of Bonds that could be obtained to expand our ability to purchas and/or ease properties. Current low bond rates are attractive.

12. Stoney Run - It was discussed that we should concentrate on properties along Stoney Run. This includes Latshaw's neighbors down the road including Benyo. Marilyn has not yet talked to Benyo.

Bobbie Buzzard might be interested in an easement along Stoney Run.

13. Stock has not yet contacted Bentley.

14. Stock will work with Kim in developing a write up on the Latshaw Easement to gain publicity for this action and possibly interest others in easements.

15. Stock moved and Dave seconded the asdjournment at 8:10

16. Next meeting - February 15, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,

**George Irwin, Secretary
Open Space Committee**