

**East Pikeland Township  
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Present: Rusty Strauss, Betsy Burns, John Schott, Martin Sheehan, Stock Illoway, Lori Beck, and Kersten Appler

Absent: None

Guests: Michelle Rubin (EPT Rep.)

Minutes from the January meeting were approved with a few changes including taking out the strike outs and change French and Pick to French and Pickering.

It was reported that the current Open Space Budget is \$4.7M.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning Meeting Summary
  - Rusty reported that the meeting on January 27 went well. Each committee presented what their goals were for the year. The Board of Supervisors also talked about their visions for the future.
  - Michelle said that the meeting brought the different committees together and helped people see how they can work together on projects and goals. There is also a new understanding between committees and a common desire to move forward on a sustainability ordinance.
  - Betsy mentioned that Rusty discussed the Regional Planning Committee and the 724 Corridor Committee which was insightful and helped her understand the interests of the region.
  
- OSC/P&R Subcommittee Meeting Summary
  - The subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday, February 27. Rusty reported that this was also a good meeting. Two Park and Recreation representatives and five Open Space members were present.
    - Rusty explained that the meeting was a useful way to communicate goals and expectations. Such as, the OS committee is looking at Park and Rec to implement plans and understand their role in the whole process of working together to expand parks and trails. The meeting was good to increase cooperation, coordination, and communication between the two groups about what's happening in each committee.
    - The subcommittee put properties into different categories to guide them including red tape, trail connections, active recreation, passive recreation, and indoor recreation.

- John said the Park and Rec. Board seems more confident in understanding their role in acquiring land and initiating action. They can make proposals and help push the projects a bit and OSC can work with them. If we don't have a plan ready to go, the supervisors won't approve it so we need to work together to make it happen.
    - Michelle mentioned that she and the Park and Rec. Board will be working on a community survey to guide the next steps. She is hoping to release it in multiple places.
    - The meetings will be held quarterly with the next one in June.
  - Rusty mentioned that in the past a farmer's market had been located at the Prizer Rd. property/ Dixon property and it could be a good place to consider something like that again.
  - John gave an update on the 724 corridor meeting. They discussed right of ways with PennDOT. He said that PennDOT was very receptive to granting right of ways and they do have a process to go through to make it happen. If we have two pieces of property that we need to connect and they have a right of way they assured the committee that they could secure the right of way. They gave the committee the name of a representative to reach out to.
  - Stock shared that his contact, Barbara Cohen, may have access to an abandoned Phoenix steel bridge which she could get. He wanted to know if the Township could utilize it and Michell informed him that there would be a number of uses for the bridge. Stock is going to visit in April/May and will have more information then.
  - Rusty gave an update on finishing the west end of the French Creek Trail. He talked with Pam from French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and shared that they still don't know how to connect the two ends. They were at a meeting together and also talked to the woman in charge of Ag. Council about Ag and trail easements to see if she could dig into our options that a little more.
- New OS Map & Documents
  - Michelle shared the updated OS map and documents with the committee which has been shared at the last meeting but had needed editing. Michelle said that now that we have the documents in order about what we have, the next steps will be updating the database to reflect where we are at in the process of acquiring new properties.
- Brief property updates:
  - Pikeland Glenn/Crouse
    - Jacob Bohem was at the Township building this week to look at files, and he is working on the appraisals.
  - Davis
    - Stock didn't make any leeway.
  - Steimer
    - Michelle will ask people at the Fire Co. for Steimer's contact information. It's important to try to preserve that property for the continuation of the

fair/event parking. There are a number of options that they have, we just want to begin a dialogue and inform them of their options.

- Wagner
  - There was some confusion with the Wagner property and the realtor, Tom Toole thinking that the original appraisal was inaccurate, but his information was wrong. If the Wagners want to do another appraisal we can split the difference. The last time Rusty talked to him they were getting an appraisal.
  - John shared that a developer came in and talked with John Colarusso and himself. The developer wants to acquire a few properties along 724, but he doesn't have any use for the back end of the properties, but we would, so it could be a great opportunity for a partnership.
- Brimful
  - On hold at this time
  - Need to send them a certified, legal letter outlining our right to the property. The question was posed, can we lose the property if we don't claim it in a certain number of years? It may be in the deed but it may end up lapsing under common law. Need to get a legal opinion, Michelle will look into it.
- Dixon
  - Rusty asked if Stock had any contact for the Dixon property. Stock said he would check, Michelle will too on the master mailing list.
- Doherty
  - John will check in sometime this month.

### **Public Comment**

None.

Next meeting will be changed to Tuesday, April 24.