

**East Pikeland Township
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Rusty Strauss, chair, at 7:01pm

Present: John Schott, Stock Illoway, Rusty Strauss, Martin Sheehan, Betsy Burns
Absent: Kersten Appler, Marilyn Randolph, & Lori Beck
Guests: Michelle Rubin (EP Liaison)

Minutes from October 2017 meeting were approved.

The budget was reviewed. It was announced that there is \$4.44M in the fund.

Old Business:

- Fire Company Meeting
 - Michelle informed the Committee that the members of the Fire Company that were contacting the Steimers have resigned from their positions. One member said he was still going to talk to them, the committee decided to give them a little more time to do so because they have a stronger connection to the property owners.
- Brief Property Updates from Committee Members
 - Crouse/Pikeland Glen
 - Present committee members filled out the priority grid for the property and handed in sheets to Rusty to compile
 - Stock moved to propose to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to have an appraisal for the property, John seconded.
 - Notes: all kinds of recreation possible on this property. The committee is interested in purchasing the property for both active and passive recreation and municipal uses.
 - Michelle will make sure that the appraiser has the most current plan that Longview has on file. She will ensure that the appraiser is aware of the property's value as stated by the courts
 - Michelle mentioned a meeting she was in recently with Molly Morrison, President of Natural Lands. The main topic was maximizing Open Space funds. Molly suggested holding a campaign, private donations, and selling parcels to get closer to a financial goal.
 - It was mentioned that the OSC didn't think it was possible to use private funds, so that needs to be examined.
 - Also, other municipalities have not been changing their referendums to use the funds for maintenance, but OSC

was told that they have to in order to use them. What are other areas doing and what are the rules around this?

- Davis
 - Our appraisal was 1.6M, their appraisal was 2.4M, so we could offer 2M max. They have an offer on the table for 3M plus the rights to be the contractor building the units, along with another offer. If Fire Co and KYAL could go in with us we would get a little closer.
 - Michelle reported that according to the appraisal, two prime lots would be 544K.
 - Stock will get in touch with land lawyers and ask them about how a private donation would work.
- Meyer Sale
 - Michelle explained that two parcels are going up for sale. The property and potential open space uses were discussed.
 - Rusty and Stock will attend the sale to see how the process works, how much is wanted for the property, and whether it sells. They will not be making any purchases on behalf of the OSC or East Pikeland Township.
- Meeting with Park and Rec. Debrief
 - There was a good discussion about how to get Park and Rec. on board with what the OSC has been working on in terms of acquiring land for trails. OSC reps also set the expectation that the OSC wants them to look at the implementation and maintenance of new/existing trails. If the Park and Rec. board thinks that OSC should be focusing on a certain area, we should be helping them get there. If there are other areas that are priorities we need to collaborate and work together to figure out how to implement goals.
 - Rusty mentioned that now that we have officially acquired Woodbridge Park and Rec might need to hire a consultant to implement a trail. Michelle will look into this.
 - Subcommittee
 - Forming a sub-committee, 2-3 members are needed. Two Park and Rec. members are interested--Sean and Joann--and they proposed bi-monthly meetings. John is interested in being on the subcommittee, so 1-2 more OSC members are needed.
 - Regional committee--Rusty contacted surrounding townships and boroughs to see if there is interest in creating a regional trail committee
 - Schuylkill and Phoenixville have agreed, waiting to hear about the rest of the member municipalities
 - John would sit on it, rusty would assume that the members of the OSC/Park & Rec. subcommittee would too
 - They wouldn't meet very often (quarterly?), but when they did would meet and break out and work on projects

New Business

- Re-appointment
 - Kersten is the only member up for reappointment. Michelle will contact her and ask if she is interested in continuing. John moved and Stock seconded that if she is interested her re-appointment will be sent to the BOS
- Resignation – Marilyn Randolph
 - Long-time Committee member, Marilyn, has resigned effective immediately. Her space is now open on the OSC. Members will ask around and Michelle will advertise the position.
- December Meeting
 - Meeting will be cancelled with no new agenda items. Next meeting will be held the January 16.
- Strategic Planning Meeting
 - Michelle informed the committee that there will be a strategic planning meeting held on Saturday, January 27. The head of OSC and 1-2 members can attend.
- Graham Property
 - Stock made a motion to urge the supervisors to put an easement on the Graham property, John seconded. The land is currently being farmed, but it would be a wonderful property to officially preserve.
- Township rights
 - Michelle was asked to research provisions for the Township to get a right of way, take over property that has been promised to us, acquire promised Open Space, etc. What properties do we already have these on? John wants the OSC to know what rights we might have in the future on other properties.

With no further business, Stock moved and John seconded the adjournment of the meeting at 8:15pm.