

**East Pikeland Township
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Present: Rusty Strauss, Stock Illoway, John Schott, Lori Beck, Betsy Burns, & Kersten Appler
Guests: Jonathan Gayl & Chris Meszaros
Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the November meeting were approved with no changes.

Michelle reported that the open space fund is \$5.32M.

New Business

1. Re-Organization

- The committee voted unanimously to re-elect Rusty as the Committee Chair.
- The committee voted unanimously to re-elect Stock as the Vice Chair.
- The committee voted unanimously to elect Lori as the Secretary.
- Michelle also reported that there are a soon to be 4 vacancies that need to be filled on the Open Space Committee. Martin stepped down in December, and Kersten will be moving to the Planning Commission.

2. Strategic Planning Meeting 2/9

- Michelle informed the committee that a Strategic Planning meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9 and each committee should send 2 representatives.
 - Betsy, John, and Rusty will be there representing other committees as well.
 - Lori will attend as an Open Space representative, Stock and Kersten will be out of town
- In preparation for the meeting the committee discussed 2018 accomplishments and goals for 2019.
 - 2018 accomplishments
 - Began reaching out to old prospects to re-visit offers
 - Built an Open Space property database for potential properties
 - Sought a number of appraisals for key properties in the township
 - Began the process of putting the Graham property under conservation easement
 - 2019 goals
 - Continue to follow up with old prospects
 - Fill in Open Space potential property database
 - Solidify trail connection plans
 - Continue to meet and work with the Park and Recreation Board
 - Learn more about new methods to protect property
 - The committee would also like to have a few pictures of properties they are working on and a map of open space to share at the strategic planning meeting
- Rusty asked Michelle to put together a summary of committee activity for 2018 for the February Board of Supervisors meeting.

3. New Committee Member Packet

- Before the meeting Michelle had shared a new member packet with the committee that communicates information about the open space committee, rules, terms to know, etc. to make a transition as a volunteer smoother.
 - Members gave feedback on the document and Michelle will add the changes they suggested.

Old Business

1. Brief Property Updates

- Pikeland Glen
 - Michelle reported that the lawyers are still debating the terms of the agreement
- East Pikeland Elementary School
 - No updates.
 - Committee had a brief discussion on appraisal dealings. They talked about having a preliminary meeting before the official appraisal is done to make sure the appraiser's assumptions about the property are on the right path. They would like to make it a committee procedure, especially when the property is important.
- Kolb
 - No updates. The committee asked Michelle to reach out to Marcus to see if he would like a meeting to help answer any questions.
- Wagner
 - No updates.
- Graham
 - Michelle reported that the Board of Supervisors is considering a Declaration of Public Trust (DPT) to preserve the land.
 - A DPT is a legal document that protects land for public recreation purposes. There are 3 options, 1 is a one-page document, 2 is a document with more specific detail about the goals of the property, and 3 is a DPT plus a conservation easement. Michelle will send more details to the committee members.
 - A number of members of the Open Space Committee are concerned about the DPT because options 1 and 2 don't require a partnership with a third-party organization that ensures the township officials will uphold the current officials goals of preservation. Rusty will bring up this topic at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.
 - Michelle also informed the committee that the Phase 1 environmental study was finished and that the organization had suggested a Phase 2 study but the Board of Supervisors has decided not to move forward with it at this time.
- Davis
 - No updates.
- Steimer
 - No updates.
- Dixon
 - No updates. Rusty will reach out.

Public Comment

Jonathan Gayl had questions regarding appraisals and the assumptions made in them, especially involving sewer availability.

Adjourned at 8:30pm.