

**East Pikeland Township  
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2024**

Present: Lori Beck, John Schott, Emily Gorge, Phil Colaneri, Stock Illoway, Betsy Burns, Frank Dzedzy & Maureen Goebel

Absent: Patrick Jennings

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Emily Gorge, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Stock Illoway motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented. John Schott seconded, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

John Schott motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. Stock Illoway seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Open Space Fund sits at \$7,223,744.25.

**New Business**

1. Re-Organization

- John Schott motioned to appoint Emily Gorge as committee Chair. Emily accepted with the caveat that she hopes to train her successor. Lori Beck seconded, unanimously approved.
- Betsy Burns made a motion to appoint Stock Illoway as the committee Vice Chair. Stock accepted with the caveat that he hopes to train his successor. Frank Dzedzy seconded, unanimously approved.
- Emily Gorge motioned to appoint Maureen Goebel as Secretary. Maureen accepted. Stock Illoway seconded, unanimously approved.
- In addition, the committee discussed phasing leadership with co-chairs to get new people in leadership positions.

2. 2024 Goals and 2023 Accomplishments

- The Open Space Committee discussed accomplishments from 2023 as well as goals to focus on in 2024. These items will be presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for February 24. At least two representatives from the Open Space Committee will attend.

3. Open Space Preservation Informational Meeting

- Sub Committee Report:
  - The committee reported that September 2024 had tentatively been selected as the month to host the community forum. It will be at the Township building at 7pm via zoom and in person with registration required. The Open Space Committee members will present about the open space process and benefits, and the committee will also consider reaching out to County staff and French and Picking Creeks Conservation Trust staff to present as

well. The event will be publicly advertised, however certain property owners will receive a letter inviting them to the event. This list is still to be determined and will be discussed at later sub committee meetings. The subcommittee will put together a proposed calendar of forum tasks and present it at the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### 1. Active Property Updates

- Kimberstone: Discussions ongoing.
- Coccia: Discussions ongoing.
- Roberts: Appraisal revision in process.
- East Pikeland Elementary School: Negotiations are nearing their end, should be finalized soon.

#### 2. Hidden River Property Clean Up Recap

- Over 40 volunteers attended the event and helped clean up over 1 ton of trash and 17 tires. Many Open Space Committee Members could not attend. The committee determined that they did not want to pursue this event again in 2024, it will be turned back over to the Park & Recreation Board.

### **Public Comment**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.