

**East Pikeland Township
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Present: Rusty Strauss, Betsy Burns, John Schott, Stock Illoway, Lori Beck, Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly, & Emily Gorge

Absent: Patrick Jennings

Guests: Phil Colaneri, Ron Graham, & Jon Gayl

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the November meeting were approved with no changes.

Michelle reported that the open space fund is at \$2,187,246.96.

Phil Colaneri introduced himself, he is interested in filling the vacancy on the committee.

New Business

1. Re-Organization

- Rusty Strauss was re-elected as Chair
- Stock Illoway was re-elected as Vice Chair
- Lori Beck was re-elected as Secretary
- Michelle reported that Lori Howell had to step down due to an impending move out of the Township. As a result, there is one vacancy on the committee.

2. Strategic Planning Meeting 2/8

- Stock and Lori will attend. Margaret can also attend if needed.
- 2020 Goals
 - Main goals include protecting land through conservation easement, purchase, or development rights; expanding the trail network in East Pikeland; updating the property database; and education of committee members.

3. Solar Panel Discussion

- Stock asked the members to consider whether the committee should support solar on easements. He wants the committee to have an opinion before being officially approached by a property owner. Benyo and Kolb were both approached by solar companies. John Schott reported that the planning commission is also looking into a solar ordinance. Michelle will send a PALTA document about solar considerations to the committee and also reach out to Schuylkill Township about their solar farm and whether they have a solar ordinance.

Old Business

1. Open Space Database

- This discussion was postponed until the February meeting.

2. Brief Property Updates

- Davis
 - John Schott reported that a sketch plan for the parcels closest to the park and fire company had been submitted. The plan was incomplete and they were asked to make a few changes before returning to the Planning Committee. The plan did provide a buffer for open space along the park/fire house boundary.
- Steimer
 - John will reach out
- Graham
 - At the January Board of Supervisors meeting the Board recorded a basic version of a Declaration of Public Trust on the property, protecting it indefinitely.
- Hart
 - No update.
- Benyo
 - No update.
- Crouse
 - Michelle shared that the staff is still working to finalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (\$1.5M). The process has been slowed down by a required archaeological study, which is partially completed and will be finished once the weather is nice enough to disc the remainder of the property. She also noted that the new name for the property is Hidden River Park & Preserve.
- DeMutis
 - No update.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourned at 8:10pm.