

**East Pikeland Township
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

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

Absent: Lori Howell

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the September meeting were approved with no changes.

Michelle reported that the open space fund is at \$2,022,116.65

New Business

1. Re-doing the map
 - Michelle asked the committee to consider whether they wanted to re-do the open space map and remove a few properties that have been purchased and/or are no longer viable open space options. The committee supports updating the map and having new blown up copies printed out, but would like to leave most of the properties on the list. The committee will just rank them high, medium, and low interest and focus on the properties that are of high interest.
2. December Meeting?
 - The committee decided to leave the December meeting on the calendar for now, but if nothing pressing comes up the meeting will be cancelled.
3. January Meeting
 - Michelle informed the new committee members that in January the Committee would meet to set their 2020 goals and priority properties and discuss 2019's goals.
 - She also informed committee members of the yearly Strategic Planning Meeting where each committee sends a contingent of representatives to share goals and current projects. She asked committee members to consider whether they would like to attend, 2-3 members from each committee are welcome.

Old Business

1. Open Space Database
 - The committee discussed the Meyer/Waterworld, Piazza, Doherty, and DeMutis properties and summarized recent and past activity for all committee members and for the database.
 - Rusty and Patrick will reach out to the DeMutis family to see if there's any interest in a conservation easement.
2. Brief Property Updates
 - Graham
 - No updates, the topic is on the December Board of Supervisors agenda.
 - Hart
 - No update.

- Benyo
 - Stock reported that he talked with Benyo's nephew who said he wants to keep it as open space.
 - Michelle reported that a solar farm company had come to the township inquiring about the property. No plan has been submitted at this time. Margaret mentioned that the owner would lose his 319 status and have to pay back taxes on the property if he were to lease it to a solar company. The committee would like to learn more about solar options and what they mean in regards to Open Space. Michelle will try to line up some speakers for future meetings about this topic.
- Crouse
 - Grants: \$1.2M from Chester County for acquisition and \$20,000 from Schuylkill Highlands for the planner creating the Master Park Plan. Still waiting to hear about the \$1.5M from DCNR/Land and Water Conservation Fund.
 - Visioning: The Visioning workshop was held on Wednesday, November 6 at the Kimberton Fire House and it was a success with around 60 people in attendance. The Township's planner is using the data from the workshop to craft a draft master park plan.
- Wagner
 - Michelle reported that there has been a golf range opened on the Wagner Property and the for sale sign has come down.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourned at 8:10pm.