

**East Pikeland Township  
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.

Present: Betsy Burns, Stock Illoway, Lori Beck, Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly, & Patrick Jennings

Absent: Rusty Strauss, Emily Gorge, & John Schott

Guests: Phil Colaneri, Don Zabo, & Chris Meszaros

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the January meeting were approved with no changes.

Michelle reported that the open space fund is at \$2,218,837.75

**New Business**

1. Open Space Tour
  - Michelle reminded committee members to fill out the doodle poll to determine the best day. Currently, there's not a day when everyone can participate. Committee members agreed that as long as there are at least 6 committee members able to attend then a date can be chosen. Stock and Michelle will get together to plan the tour once a date is selected.
2. March Meeting
  - The March Open Space Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, March 24.

**Old Business**

1. Strategic Planning Meeting Summary
  - Stock, Margaret, Betsy, Lori, John, and Rusty all attended the meeting. Stock reported that the committees all presented their 2020 goals and 2019 accomplishments. Other discussion included low impact development, Ready for 100, the future of the Crouse Property, sidewalks, and more. The meeting provided a good opportunity to collaborate; solar and trails were particular points of partnership.
2. Solar Discussion
  - The committee re-visited the discussion about being proactive and planning for a solar farm before one is proposed. The EAC, Planning Commission, and Open Space Committee are all looking at this topic. Stock will reach out to Kolb to see if they are planning on moving forward with a particular plan. Patrick reminded the committee to consider their opinion on smaller arrays, not just large farms. Michelle reminded committee members to read the PALTA document she sent out last month on the topic. The committee will continue to discuss their options in regards to solar and write a letter of recommendation to the Planning Commission with their thoughts. Michelle reminded the committee that the Township has committed to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2050, so that is at play as well. Betsy and Margaret will begin to draft an outline of points for the committee to discuss.

### 3. Open Space Database

- Ottinger
  - Not been discussed or approached by the committee in the past. The property is next to DeMutis and to Cromby tracts. The property is steep in places.
- Dubin
  - This property is an important piece of continuing the French Creek Trail into East Vincent
  - Stock will get in touch with Doug Fitzsimons, the lawyer representing the property owner.
- Coccia
  - Stock approached them a number of years ago, but at the time they were waiting to develop the property, eventually fell through.
  - The property is across from Charlestown Park and is relatively flat land, could be open space, parkland, etc. Patrick will reach out to the son and ask about his thoughts on the property moving forward.

### 4. Brief Property Updates

- Davis
  - No update.
- Steimer
  - No update.
- Hart
  - No update.
- Benyo
  - No update.
- Crouse
  - Michelle reported that the Yellowbook appraisal is complete. The only remaining portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant is the archaeological study.
- DeMutis
  - No update.
- Mattiola
  - Michelle read a note from Township Manager, Kim Moretti about re-approaching the owner's partner about the property. When the committee approached them last the partner wasn't interested, but time has passed and he may be now. The committee assigned John Schott to reach out.

Patrick asked about the status of the farming contract of the Graham Property. Tom Olzanoski reached out to him and let him know that he would be interested in partaking in a bidding process for the land. Michelle will follow up with Patrick about the length of the contract. Stock would like to see the committee encourage the Board to require organic farming methods on Township-owned agricultural land. The committee will discuss next month and put together a letter of recommendation for the Board of Supervisors.

### **Public Comment**

None.

Adjourned at 8:05pm.