

**East Pikeland Township  
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

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

Absent: Betsy Burns

Guests: Jonathan Gayl (resident), Ron Graham (Supervisor), & Geoffrey Moody (Bonnie Brae realtor)

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the July meeting were approved with no changes.

Michelle reported that the open space fund is \$604,756. The grant funds from Chester County have not been distributed yet but will go into the fund once they are.

**New Business**

1. Board Member Partnerships

- Michelle presented the idea of a mentor/mentee relationship between committee members. Could include partnering to visit with property owners, answering questions after meetings etc. Members discussed the pros and cons and overall decided to wait at this time. The committee will try a few other options to educate and make new members feel comfortable (providing more time at meetings to answer questions, putting together a tour of already completed/important properties, etc.), and can use the partnership idea if needed. Michelle will work with Stock to put a tour together.
  - Margaret asked where the rating system for properties came from, and noted that it seemed mostly for buying properties and not conservation easements. Michelle reminded the committee that the rating system can be changed and that new ideas are welcome.

**Old Business**

1. Open Space Database

- The committee discussed the Davis, Steimer, Dixon, and Kolb properties, and summarized recent and past activity for all committee members and for the database.
  - Michelle presented the committee with an idea to ask the owners of the Dixon property for a trail easement, instead of trying to purchase a portion of the property or the development rights. Would need a new appraisal for a trail easement.
  - John informed Michelle that a number of links are broken on the DropBox, she will check it and re-upload as needed

2. Brief Property Updates

- Bonnie Brae—Rusty reported that he informed the realtor that the committee wasn't interested in the purchase of the property, but that they may consider the development rights. The realtor, Moody, was present at the meeting with questions. The committee answered his questions and reiterated that they are not interested in the property to purchase, and after discussion about the value of the development rights, also determined they would not be interested in pursuing those either.

- Graham
  - Michelle reported that the Township lawyer didn't approve of the document given to the Township by French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust because it was about pesticides, which are not the issue on this property. The Supervisors will discuss their options, but they are currently considering the first and second versions of a Declaration of Public Trust.
- Hart
  - Lori H. reported her discovery that the owners are local and not based out of California after all. Committee members will use their resources try to find contact information for the owners.
- Benyo
  - Stock did reach out and made a successful first contact, will continue to follow up.

### 3. Joint Meeting

- Stock inquired about the next joint meeting between the Open Space Committee and Park and Recreation Board. Michelle informed the committee that the Park and Recreation Board currently has a full schedule with summer events and the Crouse Property, but a meeting can be scheduled when their availability allows or when a pressing joint project comes up.

### **Public Comment**

None.

Adjourned at 8:35pm.