Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2016

Present:	Margie Mosher, Peter Muir, Melody Leithold , Barb McMonagle
Absent:	Jeanine Harrell, Nate Yothers (BOS), Fred Moyer (Park Board), Tim Clemens (Finance), John Feldi
Other:	

I. Announcements

None.

II. Discussion

1. Meeting started at 7:30 p.m.
2. The meeting minutes from 3/15/16 were approved.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed the priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties.
4. Moyer/Henhuber Farm – Philip Moyer submitted an application to the Montgomery County Farm Preservation Program for 2015. Philip Moyer has accepted the Montgomery County offer to permanently preserve the farm. They should be going to settlement shortly.
5. Mosher Farm #3 – Margie Mosher has applied to the Montgomery County Farm Preservation Program for 2016 to preserve her 38 acre property on Fretz Rd. It has ranked in the top 5 farms by the Farm Board this year. Margie was approached by a neighbor to sell a strip of land for an access easement to his property. This will delay but not prevent the preservation of this farm.
6. Webb Farm – Billy is planning to farm the property and has started clearing land. The family still has an interest in preserving their farm. The property is now in Act 319.
7. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – No update
8. Bamboo update: Invasive bamboo growing in the area of the Ridge Valley Creek as it crosses Hausman Road. Peter reported that since he spoke with Mark Hellberg, owner of the property who now lives in Boston, Mark has come here to cut and treat the bamboo.
9. Multi-Regional Stewardship & Greenway Plan – MCPC & Natural Lands Trust will be spearheading the various aspects of this project. They have started gathering information. Matt Schelly, our community planner from MCPC, will be working on the greenway portion of the grant. A greenway plan will help identify important features of a property during the land development process. This month Barb showed a map showing the locations of the properties chosen for the Stewardship Plan throughout the region. In Salford, our Morwood Road Natural Area and Copper Mine Creek Preserve will be studied and plans created.
10. Whites Mill Preserve – No update.
11. King Road Bridge – No update.
12. Moyer Road Bridge – There is no plan to repair the bridge at this time.
13. Conservation Subdivision Ordinances (Growing Greener). This is another way to preserve open space. The ordinance would require the developer to preserve at least 50% of the property as open space, at no cost to the township, during the land development process. The developer is permitted to build the same number of homes as they would have been able to with a conventional build out yield. This could benefit Salford if implemented. We will

continue to discuss this at our OS meetings. Barb has discussed it at the Planning Commission meetings also.

14. Issues at Natural Lands Trust's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve. – No update.
15. Girl Scouts – Barb visited Carol Casper's Girl Scout Troop on May 2 to discuss "What is Open Space?" She spoke about the difference between farmland preservation and land preservation and how preserving open space permanently protects land for crop production, our natural resources, wildlife, groundwater supply as well as maintains our community character. It was important to share how we can all make a difference in our community by getting involved.
16. Barb shared information about the new Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program.
17. We also discussed new documents from PA Land Trust Association (PALTA) on Right of First Refusal and Right of First Offer and how they might be used in acquiring open space.
18. Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.