Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2017

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

I. Announcements

None.

II. Discussion

1. Meeting started at 7:30 p.m.
2. The meeting minutes from 1/17/17 & email updates 3/21/17 & 5/16/17 were tabled.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed its priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties.
4. Mosher Farm (Hay) – Margie Mosher applied to the Montgomery County Farm Preservation Program in 2016 to preserve her 38 acre property on Fretz Rd. It ranked in the top 5 farms by the Farm Board last year. Margie was approached by a neighbor to sell a strip of land for an access easement to his property and she agreed. We are waiting for the subdivision to take place and then this farm will be preserved.
5. Webb Farm – No change
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – Improvements are moving forward – the exercise equipment is installed. The township was awarded a grant for $40,000 from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for a pavilion, walking trail, parking lot, benches and more.
7. Bamboo update: Invasive bamboo in the area of the Ridge Valley Creek at Hausman Road was treated last year. Peter and Melody will continue to monitor for bamboo in this area.
8. Multi-Regional Stewardship & Greenway Plan – MCPC & Natural Lands Trust (NLT) are spearheading the various aspects of this project. They have started gathering information. MCPC will be working on the greenway portion of the grant. A greenway plan will help identify important features of a property to protect during the land development process. On May 19th, as part of the Stewardship Assessment for Salford, Frank Jarrett (Park Board) & Barb McMonagle joined staff from NLT led by Kelsey Boyd on a trail walk at Copper Mine Creek Preserve and the Morwood Road Natural Area to identify invasive plants and trees, washout areas, deer damage, etc. and the best way to manage them at each site.
9. NLT's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve - NLT is also working on a Stewardship and Trail Plan for Fulshaw Craeg Preserve. This project is underway. On May 11th, a public meeting was held by NLT to hear from residents how they use the preserve, make suggestions for improvements and discuss known problems at the preserve. Melody Leithold, Daniel & Janine Harrell and Barb McMonagle attended.
10. Whites Mill Preserve – The Park Board is looking into a floating dock to take traffic off the dam head. No update.
11. King Road Bridge – At a recent BOS meeting, a representative from Montgomery County came to discuss the township's options for the future of the bridge. No update.
12. Moyer Road Bridge – There is no plan to repair the bridge at this time.

13. BOS 2017 Objectives – We discussed the list of Open Space properties owned by Salford Township – 14 parcels totaling 188 acres is correct.
14. Montgomery County Open Space Program – Barb met Scott Berman of Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association who is working on a project in hopes of reviving the Montgomery County Open Space Program. Barb provided Scott with our current list of properties under consideration for conservation easements or acquisition. He will be making a presentation to the Montgomery County Planning Commission with similar lists from many townships throughout Montgomery County.
15. Montgomery County 2040 Implementation Grant Awards – The 2017 grant awards were discussed and how we could apply for the grant for similar projects. We need to be more proactive in applying for grants.
16. Vision Plan - Additional discussion occurred regarding the corner of Allentown Rd. & Ridge Road (Ridge Acquisitions) which the township is acquiring, the old Croll property (how Growing Greener Ordinances could be used here), and the need for a Vision Plan for Salford (especially Tylersport area) over the next 5, 10, 15+ years.
17. 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.
18. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.