Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017

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

I. Announcements

None.

II. Discussion

1. Meeting started at 7:30 p.m.
2. The meeting minutes from 1/17/17, 7/18/17 & email updates for 3/21/17 & 5/16/17 were approved.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed its priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties.
4. DiDomizio Property (2 adjacent lots) – June Didomizio spoke to Barb about selling two undeveloped parcels totaling 9.32 acres to Salford Township. They are adjacent to Whites Mill Preserve. The Open Space Committee unanimously agreed that we should approach the Board of Supervisors to seek approval to move forward. The next step would be an appraisal of the two lots.
5. 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. The final subdivision plan is scheduled for the next Board of Supervisor meeting on September 21st. Once the subdivision is completed this farm can be preserved.
6. Webb Farm – No change
7. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – No update. 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.
8. 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.
9. Spotted Lanternfly – Melody and her neighbors have spotted this very destructive invasive insect on their properties.
10. 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. NLT has begun the Stewardship Assessments. Once they are complete there will be a presentation and report which will identify invasive plants and trees, washout areas, deer damage, etc. and advise the best way to manage them.
11. NLT's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve - NLT is finishing the Stewardship and Trail Plan for its Fulshaw Craeg Preserve. On October 16th, a public meeting will be held by NLT to discuss the final plan for the preserve.
12. Whites Mill Preserve – No update.

13. King Road Bridge – Montgomery County will repair this bridge but wants the township to take ownership of it. We are waiting for the Board of Supervisors to decide if the bridge will be 1) permanently removed, 2) repaired and kept closed as a pedestrian bridge or 3) repaired and reopened for vehicular traffic before it becomes Salford's bridge.
14. Moyer Road Bridge – According to a newspaper article, this bridge is on a list to be repaired. It is in the planning/engineering stage.
15. Montgomery County 2040 Implementation Grant – We need to be more proactive in applying for grants. The next round of funding will be in 2018.
16. The Open Space Committee discussed article ideas for the next newsletter. Some ideas were related to the purpose and goals of our open space committee and others about the historic information/stories related to Salford's past which need to be collected so that they are not lost forever.
17. A new Countywide Trail Map from the Montco 2040 Plan was shared which shows the current and proposed trails throughout Montgomery County.
18. Vision Plan - No new discussion occurred regarding the corner of Allentown Rd. & Ridge Road (Ridge Acquisitions) which the township recently acquired, the old Croll property (how Growing Greener Ordinances could be used here), or the need for a Vision Plan for Salford (especially Tylersport area) over the next 5, 10, 15+ years.
19. 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.
20. Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.