Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2016

Present:	Jeanine Harrell, Melody Leithold, Tim Clemens (Finance), Barb McMonagle
Absent:	Margie Mosher, Peter Muir, Nate Yothers (BOS), 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 5/17/16 and 7/19/16 (no meeting) were approved.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed a new priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties.
4. Moyer/Henhuber Farm – Philip Moyer farm has been permanently preserved.
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 – Improvements are ongoing. A basketball court is underway.
8. Bamboo update: Invasive bamboo in the area of the Ridge Valley Creek as it crosses Hausman Road was treated by Mark Hellberg, the owner of the property who now lives in Boston. Peter and Melody will continue to monitor the bamboo in this area.
9. Multi-Regional Stewardship & Greenway Plan – MCPC & Natural Lands Trust (NLT) 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 to protect during the land development process. In Salford, our Morwood Road Natural Area and Copper Mine Creek Preserve will be studied and plans created.
10. NLT's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve - NLT is also working on a Stewardship and Trail Plan for Fulshaw Craeg Preserve. This project is just starting. Melody is our representative and has offered to show them the existing trails in this area.
11. Other Issues at Natural Lands Trust's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve. – No change.
12. Whites Mill Preserve – No update.
13. King Road Bridge – No update.
14. Moyer Road Bridge – There is no plan to repair the bridge at this time.
15. Barb shared information about the new Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program. This new grant program has $1,000,000 set aside each year by the County Commissioners. It is

on a first come, first served basis until the money is gone. There is a limit of $200,000 per project with a minimum 80/20 township match.

16. 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 in addition to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program. Barb shared our Priority List of Properties with him.
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. 2017 Budget – Barb will make a request to the BOS and Finance Committee seeking $100,000 be set aside for Open Space in 2017.
19. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.