Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2020

Present:	Fred Moyer (Park Board), Melody Leithold, Tim Clemens (Finance Committee), John Feldi, Jeanine Harrell, Barb McMonagle
Absent:	None
Guest:	None

I. Announcements

None

II. Discussion

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm via Zoom.
2. The meeting minutes from 5/19/20 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 to Whites Mill Preserve) Update
   1) Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Grant (DCNR) – We received the requested $100,000 grant for the township's purchase of the DiDomizio lots. The next steps for township acquisition have begun. There will need to be another appraisal, survey, title insurance, draft deed and possible environmental assessment before settlement can be made.
5. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – The Park Board is getting prices for pickleball. They are also talking with Boyertown for information about a dual purpose court which could be used for basketball and pickleball where the posts can be raised or lowered. They are also working on getting a sign.
6. Whites Mill Preserve –
   1) Fred reported Christian Barndt (Paul's son) approached the Park Board regarding his Eagle Scout project at Whites Mill to clean the path to the observation deck, stain it and install wooden duck boxes. A stain color has been picked. Work is planned for this fall.
   2) Whites Mill Research Project: In 2019 we were contacted by Roger Latham, Ph.D. from Continental Conservation. He is working on a DCNR research project studying native plant meadows in SE PA, DE & MD and is studying our Whites Mill Meadow. They are measuring for threatened and endangered plants known to be in our area by installing small markers which will be observed several times a year and by taking small soil samples. Their study was delayed due to COVID-19 and the weather. They started earlier this month. Doug will delay mowing until they finish collecting their samples.
   3) Spraying of the weeds at Whites Mill Pond is continuing yearly. The weeds are hard to control due to their horizontal root system.
7. PECO Line Issues: No update.
8. Invasive vegetation update – The township doesn't have a "weed or invasive vegetation policy."
9. Spotted Lanternfly – We are now seeing them. Melody suggested Raid Flying Insect Spray has worked in killing them.
10. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Doug is going to look at opening it for bikes and walking only.
11. Moyer Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. No change.

12. Hausman Road Bridge – A replacement prefab bridge could be the answer to saving $$$. The Board of Supervisors authorized starting the permit process. Replacement can cost $300,000 - ???
13. Skymount Lake Floating Dock System – Barb shared pictures of the dock system Marlborough Township now has at Skymount Lake. This is something we could consider doing at Whites Mill to help with the deterioration of the dam head. There are grants available too.
14. Lower Frederick Township Open Space Referendum – The Lower Frederick Township Board of Supervisors have voted to put a referendum question on the Fall ballot which will ask residents to vote for a .05% open space tax. They expect, if passed, the new tax to raise between $60,000-75,000/year for open space preservation. Up to 25% of the amount collected, could be used for maintenance of open space. Years ago, there was a Salford Township Open Space Committee discussion regarding having a referendum for open space here. The Board of Supervisors at the time didn't support the idea.
15. Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.