Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024

Present:	Tim Clemens (Finance Committee), Bob Gautreau, Melody Leithold, John Feldi, Barb McMonagle
Absent:	None
Guests:	None

I. Announcements

II. Discussion

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm at the township building.
2. The meeting minutes from September 17, 2024, were approved.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed its priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties.
   a. The Boy Scout property, 12 acres, is located at 32 Klingerman Rd. It is heavily wooded. It would make a great community park. This property was added to our priority list.
4. Ramp Barn in Tylersport – No update.
5. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Montgomery County put up a barrier. Nothing is happening.
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park
   a. Memorial Fountain at Tylersport Community Park. No update on its dedication.
   b. Pickleball Court – We should consider this for the park as it is very popular.
   c. Sign – A sign for the park is in the works.
7. Whites Mill Preserve –Whites Mill Dam –
   a. Bob shared information about an old quarry with cut boulders at Whites Mill. Several members expressed interest in visiting it. A date previously set for November 20th to visit the area was postponed.
   b. Weed Control – The weeds at Whites Mill Pond continue to be sprayed each year in the dam area.
   c. Other – The township cleaned up the area by the dam. They plan to make additional improvements to the trail area.
8. Invasive vegetation – Two new invasives related to bamboo have been spotted along Hill Road. Also, Japanese stilt grass is everywhere in the township this year. Invasive Japanese Knotweed (Reynoutria japonica) another invasive has been spotted on Hill Road. It grows up to 10' high and underground to 10' deep. It's very hard to get rid of and similar to bamboo though it is not related to bamboo.
9. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers continue to do damage. There are a lot of dead trees. Per Melody the first wave of the ash borer is over and a 2nd wave is just starting in Michigan. There is hope that a resistance shown in some ash trees may be a solution for future repopulation.
10. Oak Tree Scorch – A fungus killing oak trees. Pin oaks are not affected by this fungus.
11. Spotted Lanternfly – Population of the spotted lanternfly are on the decline.
12. PA House Bill 1976 & 2045, PA Senate Bill 1126. These 3 proposed bills were discussed which would take away the rights of the township to control zoning and mandate housing of all types throughout Pennsylvania's townships – single family, multi-family, accessory dwelling units (ADU), manufactured home communities, etc. The mandates would strip the township's control and give it to the state by amending the Municipalities Planning Code. The township Supervisors have adopted a resolution in opposition to these bills. These bills are still active in the State legislature.
13. Firearm Ordinance – The Board of Supervisors and the township Solicitor are still working on an ordinance to require backstops when residents target practice to ensure their safety and the safety of their neighbors.
14. Dry Wells – Many residents in the township have experienced their wells going dry. There is a map of these properties at the township building. A meeting was held on October 3, 2024 at the Tylersport Firehouse with DEP, Montgomery County, and state representatives to share information and answer residents' questions. We learned the Naceville Quarry pumps 500,000 gal/water/day. Residents have created a Facebook page "Salford Twp Well Issues". The township is looking into the feasibility of bringing public water out to the affected area.
15. 2025 Meeting Dates: January 21, March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16 & November 18
16. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting is January 21, 2025, at 7:30 pm at the township building.