

Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

Present: Melody Leithold, Fred Moyer (Park Board), Jeanine Harrell, Barb McMonagle

Absent: John Feldi, Tim Clemens (Finance Committee),

Guest: None

I. Announcements

None

II. Discussion

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm at the township building.
2. There were no meeting minutes. (January meeting was cancelled)
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
Settlement took place on December 22th, 2020 on the DiDomizio lots. The total cost was approximately \$200,000.

We received 2 grants and 1 donation as follows:

- \$100,000 Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Grant (DCNR)
- \$ 50,000 Montgomery County
- \$ 25,000 DiDomizio Trust donation thru Natural Lands
- \$ 25,000 Salford Township

This is the third expansion of Whites Mill since 1998 when the original 102 acres were purchased. It is now 152 acres!

5. Lutchendorf property – 86.18 acres at Allentown and County Line Rds. The Lutchendorf's have accepted an offer from the Montgomery County Farm Board in 2020. Settlement is expected in 2021.
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – No update.
7. Whites Mill Preserve –
 - 1) Christian Barndt (Paul's son) has finished his Eagle Scout project at Whites Mill by cleaning the path to the observation deck, cleaning and staining it and installing wooden duck boxes.
 - 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. Doug will wait to mow the area until they finish their research in the fall.
 - 3) Spraying of the weeds at Whites Mill Pond is continuing yearly. No update.
8. Invasive vegetation update – No update.
9. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. The county and township are talking. No change.
10. Moyer Road Bridge – Construction of the new bridge has begun. It is expected to be completed in October 2021.

11. Hausman Road Bridge – A prefab bridge appears to be the most economical option to replace the bridge on Hausman Rd. Its replacement cost will be around \$300,000. The Board of Supervisors have started applying for the permits needed.
12. Floating Dock System for Whites Mill Pond – Frank Jarrett, Park Board, presented a plan to the Board of Supervisors for a floating dock system similar to the one at Skymount Lake in Marlborough Township. There are grants available to help with the costs. The Open Space Committee supports this project. A motion was voted unanimously by those present to recommend it to the Board of Supervisors.
13. Ceremonial Stone Landscapes – Jim Wilson has emailed Karen with information regarding ceremonial stone landscape structures built by the Lenape Indians. He visited Salford's Copper Mine Creek and felt we had them there. There will be a Zoom meeting tomorrow on 3/18/21. Barb shared information for it.
14. Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

Next meeting May 18, 2021 at 7:30 at the township building.