Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

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

I. Announcements,

II. Discussion

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm at the township building.
2. The Open Space Committee welcomed Bob Gautreau.
3. The meeting minutes from September 19, 2023, were tabled.
4. Open Space Committee Reorganization – Same as last year
   a. Chair – Barb McMonagle
   b. Vice Chair – Melody Leithold
   c. Secretary – John Feldi
5. 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 located at 32 Klingerman Rd., was discussed. Bob will contact the realtor and visit the property.
6. Ramp Barn – Barb shared some examples of previously funded projects which received funding from the Montgomery County Implementation Grant. This program and DCNR grants could be sought to help with the costs for making improvements to the Ramp Barn property at Ridge and Allentown Roads.
7. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Montgomery County put up a barrier. No new update.
8. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – No update.
9. Park Board - Barb will ask Supervisors if OS should consider taking over Park Board work.
10. Whites Mill Preserve –Whites Mill Dam – Bob shared information about an old quarry with cut boulders at Whites Mill. Several members expressed interest in visiting it. No date was set.
11. 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.
12. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers have been very active in the township. The birds appear to be eating them. There are a lot of dead trees. The utility companies have been trimming the tops of the trees back and leaving tall stumps. Other places, the dead trees have fallen down.
13. Other: Open Space Items of interest.
    a. Natural Lands received a grant for $884,700 towards the purchase of Camp Delmont, 679 acres in Marlborough and Salford townships. It will become part of the William Penn State Forest.
    b. Camp Laughing Waters – 458 acres in New Hanover & Upper Frederick Townships is now preserved with a conservation easement. The total cost was $3.9 million. The Girl Scouts will continue to own the property.
    c. Parkhouse, located in Upper Providence Township, was previously a geriatric home owned by Montgomery County. It was considered to be 'open space" but was never permanently preserved. The property was sold in 2014 to reduce costs. Today, there is a 1,200-unit development proposed for the site.
14. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting is May 21, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the township building.