**Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

*May 17, 2022*

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| *Present:* | Melody Leithold, Tim Clemens (Finance Committee, Fred Moyer (Park Board), Barb McMonagle |
| *Absent:* | John Feldi |
| *Guests:* | None |

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**I. Announcements,**

None

**II. Discussion**

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm at the township building.
2. The Meeting minutes from March 15, 2022, were reviewed and approved.
3. The Open Space Committee reviewed its priority list of properties under consideration for easements or acquisition and additional potential properties. We learned at our last meeting from Jake Kratz that NL is looking at some of the properties on our list as well. We hope to work with them to further land preservation in Salford.
4. Clemens Property – 7.3 acres located at Hausman Rd. & Camp Green Lane Rd. NL now has an agreement of sale for $110,000 and are applying for grants from Montgomery County and DCNR. Salford Township has provided a Letter of Support and a commitment to contribute $20,000 to the conservation of this property. The Montgomery County Open Space Board made a recommendation to the Montgomery County Commissioners at their meeting on March 31st. The Commissioners approved $52,400 in early April contingent upon the balance of funding being received from DCNR. The DCNR grant application for $60,000 has been submitted and is the final funding source to complete the acquisition. We are waiting for their grant announcement sometime this fall.
5. Myers property – 27.37 acres on Camp Green Lane Rd. Jim and Sue Myers have accepted the Montgomery County Farm Board offer to preserve their farm. No update.
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park – The Park Board's wish list includes adding a Pickleball Court and Bocce Ball. Warren Taylor is making up a variety of sign designs which are not electric but will provide a place for information. The park walkway needs some drainage work to keep it from continuing to get washed out.
7. Whites Mill Preserve –
   1) Whites Mill Dam – The dam is still eroding.
   2) Floating Dock System for Whites Mill Pond – A floating dock system like the one at Skymount Lake in Marlborough Township is planned. An application for the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant was denied. The Park Board is looking at other options/grants. The Open Space Committee supports this project.
8. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. No update.
9. Hausman Road Bridge – The bridge is closed. A prefab bridge is in the works. Some of the funds needed for its replacement are coming from the American Rescue Plan.
10. Invasive vegetation – It's spring! Bayberry, multiflora rose, blackberry and cowitch are taking over an area at Copper Mine Creek Preserve. Work needs to be done there to control them. Stiltgrass has been taking over native wildflowers and is creating a fire hazard throughout the township.
11. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers have been very active in the township. There are a lot of dead trees. Asplundh and Verizon have been cutting major branches and leaving 20' stumps to lessen the chance of the electric going out in a storm from these trees falling.
12. Montgomery County Return on the Environment Study – Barb was on the task force of this study which shows the economic value in $ of preserving open space thru home values, health benefits, environmental benefits, etc. throughout Montgomery County. The study can be found at: https://www.montcopa.org/4187/Return-on-Environment.

13. Montgomery County is recommending funding they received from the American Rescue Plan be used to create a new Montgomery County Open Space Program.
14. Giant Supermarkets has a new grant program called “Healing the Planet” and are committing $300,000. Grants of $2,500, $5,000 & $10,000 will be awarded sometime in June. Applications are due by 4/28/22.
15. Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

Next meeting July 19, 2022 at 7:30 at the township building.