Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 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 meeting minutes from September 19, 2023 and March 19, 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 located at 32 Klingerman Rd., was discussed. Bob visited the property. It is heavily wooded. We will keep this property on our radar. It would make a great community park.
4. Ramp Barn in Tylersport - 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.
5. The Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania is having their yearly barn tour June 7-9 in our area this year. Jim Styer's barn is one of the barns being toured as well as other barns in this area with similarities to our Ramp Barn in Tylersport.
6. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Montgomery County put up a barrier. No update.
7. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park
   a. A Memorial Fountain is being built at Tylersport Community Park. Initially it will honor former Supervisor John Baker and Doug Hedrick when finished.
   b. Pickleball Court – We should consider this for the park as it is very popular.
   c. Sign – In the works. We discussed that there is confusion whether this is a Community Park or part of the Country View Development. A sign would surely help.
8. Park Board - Barb asked the Supervisors if the Open Space Committee should consider taking over Park Board work. They are hoping to appoint new members to the Park Board instead.
9. 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. We plan to wait until the leaves are down in the fall to visit the area.
   b. Weed Control – The township continues spraying the weeds at Whites Mill Pond each year.
10. 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. No update.
11. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers have been very active in the township. There are a lot of dead trees falling down.
12. Other: Open Space Items of interest.
    a. 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. Stay tuned for updates.
13. Tim & Barb gave Bob a brief history of the successes of the Open Space Committee. Between the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, private lands with conservation easements and Township Open Space purchases over 20% of the township is now preserved. We are not finished!
14. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting is July 16, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the township building.