Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 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 May 21, 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. It is heavily wooded. We will keep this property on our radar. It would make a great community park.
4. Ramp Barn in Tylersport – No update.
5. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Montgomery County put up a barrier. No update.
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park
   a. The Memorial Fountain is almost finished at Tylersport Community Park. Initially it will honor former Supervisor John Baker and Doug Hedrick. No update on its dedication.
   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.
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. 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.
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. No update.
9. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers have been very active in the township. There are a lot of dead trees.
10. 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. There was a 1,200-unit development proposed for the site but after a compromise, the township adopted a zoning amendment which will now allow no more than 600 homes and 80 acres of open space as part of the development. The property is 176.5 acres.
11. WeConservePA.org Webinar – Protecting Parks & Open Space in Perpetuity July 25 – Barb is planning to attend.
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.
13. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting is September 17, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the township building.