Salford Township Open Space Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

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

I. Announcements,

II. Discussion

1. The meeting started at 7:30 pm at the township building.
2. The meeting minutes from July 16, 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, is located at 32 Klingerman Rd. It is heavily wooded. It would make a great community park. This property was added to our priority list.
4. Ramp Barn in Tylersport – No update.
5. King Road Bridge – The bridge is still closed. Montgomery County put up a barrier. Nothing is happening.
6. WB 5 acres – Tylersport Community Park
   a. The Memorial Fountain is almost finished at Tylersport Community Park. Plaques have been ordered to 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 – A sign for the park is in the works.
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. A date was set for November 20th to visit the area.
   b. Weed Control – The weeds at Whites Mill Pond continue to be sprayed each year in the dam area.
   c. Other – The township cleaned up the area by the dam. They plan to make additional improvements to the trail area.
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.
9. Emerald Ash Borer – The ash borers continue to do damage. There are a lot of dead trees.
10. Oak Tree Scorch – A fungus killing oak trees.
11. Spotted Lanternfly – Population of the spotted lanternfly are on the decline.
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. 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.
13. WeConservePA.org Webinar – Protecting Parks & Open Space in Perpetuity July 25 – Barb shared information from the webinar which highlighted placing permanent conditions on open space with easements to ensure these lands will be here for those that are here after us.
14. 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. These bills are still active in the State legislature.

15. Firearm Ordinance – The Board of Supervisors and the township Solicitor are working on an ordinance to require backstops when residents target practice to ensure their safety and the safety of their neighbors.
16. Deer Hunting on Township Open Space – No deer hunting is permitted on township owned properties.
17. Dry Wells – Many residents in the township have experienced their wells going dry. There is a map of these properties at the township building. A meeting is planned for October 3, 2024 at 2 pm at the Tylersport Firehouse with DEP, Montgomery County, and state representatives to share information and answer residents' questions. There is also a new Facebook page "Salford Twp Well Issues" created by residents to share information.
18. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting is November 19, 2024, at 7:30 pm at the township building.