

London Grove Township Open Space Committee
Meeting Notes: May 12, 2016

Attending: *Members* – Kim Fields, Elin Green, Anne Hannum, Paddy Neilson
Guest – Geoff Shellington, Chester County Ag Lands Preservation Board
(and Hunter Shellington)
Staff – David Sweet

1. **Geoff Shellington: discussion of Agricultural Land Preservation Board program and London Grove properties.** The Henshaw easement is progressing; the appraisal is complete and an offer has been made to the landowners. Settlement is possible before year's end. Geoff described some details of the program's workings and his office's regular monitoring of lands already under easement. Several London Grove properties were discussed in terms of seeking permanent open space protection through the Challenge Grant Program. The idea of holding a breakfast in the fall to acquaint landowners with the County program was received favorably as a County/Township joint effort.
2. **Misc. old/new business**
 - a. Status of Open Space Fund. The balance in the Open Space Fund as of May 11 was \$1,637,268. The April 11 balance was \$1,531,247; Feb. 11 was \$1,475,122; and the Jan. 7 balance was \$1,378,606. Several expenditures are anticipated over the next 8 months.
 - b. Newsletter. The Committee agreed that an update of the Township's Protected Lands Map should be prepared for the upcoming Township newsletter.
3. **Larmore easement.** This proposed purchase, as recommended by the Committee, is being reviewed by the solicitor against the criteria in the Open Space Resources Plan. A Board of Supervisors hearing to authorize the expenditure could occur June 1.
4. **Boddorff easement.** The Board of Supervisors held the required public hearing for use of the Open Space Fund for this donated easement on May 4. Settlement could occur prior to June 30.
5. **Updates on landowner contacts**
Brosius. The Brandywine Conservancy is revising its proposal to incorporate Township stipulations on payment of funds and intensive agriculture.
6. **Riparian buffer protection/enhancement.** The Board of Supervisors has delayed action on the proposed amendments to the riparian corridor standards to enable further review and comment from the agricultural community. The Committee is

interested in hosting a meeting for owners of riparian lands to encourage protection of the corridors and the installation of vegetation. There also is interest in exploring public regulatory approaches to reducing the impacts of residential lawn care products on water quality.

Next meeting: Thurs., June 9