

London Grove Township Open Space Committee
Meeting Notes: August 3, 2015

Attending: *Members* – Eric Brown, Paddy Neilson, Lew Wilkinson
Staff – David Sweet

1. **Status of Open Space Fund.** The current balance is \$1,256,096.55. This compares to the June 8 balance of \$1,180,721.
2. **Updates on landowner contacts**
 - a. **Klotzbach.** Chester County Ag Lands Preservation Board has received the property survey, and will be sending a proposed agreement of sale to the Township this week. Paddy and Steve Brown met with the Klotzbachs last week.
 - b. **Boddorff.** Erin McCormick feels that the Boddorffs are close to signing the proposal for NLT to prepare the easement. There are some final questions to resolve re: the number of horses permitted and the area designated for minimum protection.
 - c. **Perkowski.** Erin reported no recent contact. The Committee again felt that NLT might prepare a proposal for this easement and present it to the landowner.
 - d. **Brosius.** There is ongoing discussion about the extent of stream bank protection to be included in the easement terms. However, David Shields is confident the easement donation will be completed.
 - e. **Henshaw.** John Goodall remains in contact.
 - f. **Lamotte.** David Shields reported that this easement is nearly done.
 - g. **Yarmouth Stables.** John Goodall has offered to work with Eric in an attempt to make contact with the owner.
 - h. **Hutchison.** Contact will be attempted.
3. **Riparian buffer easements.** As a result of the June 11 meeting, staff at the Brandywine Conservancy is reviewing conservation easements held by that organization to see if amendments could be made in some cases to strengthen protection of riparian areas, perhaps in concert with other changes to the easement. Also, Gwen Lacy indicates that The Land Trust of Southern Chester County prepares, and holds, easements on riparian areas designated within larger property easements. They also hold a riparian-specific easement on the Brandywine. The value of such an easement has been comparable to a trail easement. Gwen is in position to hold any such easements in London Grove. The Committee also raised concerns about the number and long-term maintenance of trees planted in riparian areas, particularly along headwater areas and 1st-order streams.

Discussion also involved the ordinance changes under consideration by the Planning Commission, and their potential impact on agricultural landowners. This will be further explored.

Next meeting: Thurs., Sept. 10