

## **London Grove Township Open Space Committee Meeting Notes: Sept. 14, 2017**

Attending:    *Members* – Dominique Boddorff, Paddy Neilson, Tina Skinner, Lew Wilkinson  
                  *Staff* – David Sweet

### **1. Misc. old/new business**

- a.     Status of Open Space Fund. The balance in the Open Space Fund as of Sept. 11 was \$2,191,954.
- b.     Dominique presented further information on re-wilding, and the committee discussed its potential application in the Township. A couple of articles on the concept will be e-mailed to members as a prelude to more focused discussion at the October meeting. The committee also discussed the threat posed by vines on trees in the Township, especially at Goddard Park, and various stormwater management practices. These could be the basis for an environmental education initiative, perhaps in concert with the Environmental Advisory Council.
- c.     Township budget. A proposed OSC '18 budget amount of \$9,550 was submitted to the Finance Director
- d.     Jock Hannum has moved out of the Township and has resigned his seat on the committee. Members expressed their appreciation for his service on behalf of open space preservation; Jock was a charter member of the committee and its chairman for several years.

### **2. Riparian buffers**

- a.     It was agreed that any direct follow-up to the June 8 landowners meeting should be decided upon at the committee's Oct. 12 meeting. The main focus will be on those who attended, or were invited to attend, that meeting and that have significant opportunities for enhanced riparian buffer vegetation. The availability of funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of vegetation also will need to be clarified.
- b.     The Township has been advised that, for the purpose of maintenance, Open Space Earned Income Tax funds may only be expended on properties that were purchased or placed \under easement with those funds. This limits the situations where maintenance can be funded, although that may be possible in the future if riparian buffer easements are purchased.
- c.     The Brandywine Conservancy has a grant application pending with the Pa. Growing Greener program; although it currently is jeopardized by the state's budget problems.

### **3. Easements in progress/anticipated**

- a.     Brosius. The easement remains stymied by the DEP permitting process and the requirements for stream crossings for horses. Paddy offered to contribute his expertise in this area, and will be in contact with the Conservancy.
- b.     Sheppard. The Township committed to paying for a second appraisal, but the landowner has chosen not to proceed at this time.
- c.     Hutchison. The Conservancy's proposal to draft the easement has been signed by the family and the Township, and work is proceeding. The County agricultural easement on the adjoining Penn Twp. land also is moving ahead.

**4. Status of other properties**

a. SECCRA. The Speakman parcel on Rt. 41 is the subject of current discussions between SECCRA and the Board of Supervisors. The committee will await the outcome of that process.

b. Other contacts to be made:

- [1] Reef (sp.?) – Paddy
- [2] Yarmouth Stables – Eric
- [3] Birney – Tina
- [4] Perkowski – Erin McCormick
- [5] Blosser – Dominique
- [6] Lasko (sp.?) – Dominique
- [7] Poliski – Lew

c. Other potential contacts, from prior lists:

- [1] Devereux
- [2] Flood
- [3] Crowley

Next meeting: Thurs., Oct. 12. The committee reaffirmed that the starting time will continue to be 6 p.m.