

London Grove Township Open Space Committee
Meeting Notes: Jan. 8, 2015

Attending: *Members* – Kim Fields, Elin Green, Anne Hannum, Jock Hannum, Paddy Neilson, Lew Wilkinson
Staff – David Sweet

1. Misc. old/new business.

a. Committee appointments. At its Jan. 5 meeting, the Board of Supervisors appointed Kim Fields, Paddy Neilson, and Lew Wilkinson to serve 3-year terms. The Committee welcomed Lew to its ranks and recognized Wendy Powell's service to the Township during her tenure.

b. Open Space Fund. The current balance is \$1,062,144. The three previous monthly balances were \$1,052,000 (Dec.), \$1,002,000 (Nov.), and \$957,000 (Oct.). There were no expenditures from the Fund during that time.

c. Merner property. The London Grove Township Municipal Authority now owns this property, and the Township will be purchasing a conservation easement from the Authority with OS EIT funds. The Board of Supervisors is obtaining a second appraisal of the easement value. The purchase of the easement could be completed during the 1st quarter of 2015.

d. Klotzbach property. The Township has been asked by the County Ag Lands Preservation Board if it will participate in the Challenge Grant Program for this property. That decision is expected at the Board's Feb. 4 meeting. If favorable, the County will seek a deposit from the applicant and, upon receipt, will proceed with an appraisal.

4. Status of landowner contacts.

a. Brosius. The Brandywine Conservancy is continuing to prepare a conservation plan for the property.

b. Reef – Paddy will make a contact.

c. Devereux. There is a tentative plan to attend the February meeting.

d. Crockett. Mrs. Crockett now plans to attend the February meeting.

5. Alternative approaches to small properties.

a. Riparian buffer protection. The idea of purchasing conservation easements to protect forested riparian buffers was discussed further. The status of the CREP program will be explored.

b. London Grove Township Land Trust. Resurrection of its creation is being pursued.

c. Deed restriction. This technique is being used by certain other land trusts; that experience will be investigated.

Next meeting: Wed., Feb. 18; 5 p.m. (rescheduled from Feb. 12)