

London Grove Township Open Space Committee
Meeting Notes: November 12, 2015

Attending: *Members* – Anne Hannum, Jock Hannum (by proxy), Paddy Neilson, Lew Wilkinson
Guests – Erin McCormick, Natural Lands Trust; John Goodall, Brandywine Conservancy
Staff – David Sweet

1. **Erin McCormick** – Erin reported that the proposal to prepare the Boddorff conservation easement has been signed by all parties. She expects the work to be completed within 3 months. Avenues to assist Dominique boddorff with removal of invasives and additional tree planting are being explored.

Erin also reported on recent contact with a landowner interested in selling a conservation easement. **Motion** (Neilson/A. Hannum): to recommend that the Board of Supervisors proceed with this purchase and cover all associated transaction costs. Passed unanimously.

2. **John Goodall**– John reported on recent contact with the owners of a parcel in the Township, and their interest in exploring the possible sale of a conservation easement on that parcel. **Motion** (Anne Hannum/Neilson): to recommend a meeting with the Board of Supervisors to explore this purchase, and to recommend that the Board authorize an appraisal of the easement value. Passed unanimously.

John also reported on the Henshaw application to the County Agricultural Lands Preservation Board for the sale of an agricultural easement. The application appears to have been well received, and a statement of commitment by the Township is the next step.

3. **Status of Open Space Fund.** The current balance is \$1,399,019.98. This includes expenditure of \$76,500 for the Klotzbach easement. The balance as of Aug. 3 was \$1,256,096.

4. **Committee membership.** Eric Brown’s term expires as of Dec. 31. He has expressed a desire to be reappointed. **Motion** (Neilson/Wilkinson): to recommend that the Board of Supervisors reappoint Eric Brown to a 3-year term on the Open Space Committee. Passed unanimously.

5. **Updates on landowner contacts**

a. **Klotzbach.** Settlement occurred last week on this agricultural conservation easement. As noted in #3, above, the Township’s share of the purchase price was

\$76,500.

b. Lamotte. The easement is complete; final action is awaiting resolution of a mortgage subordination issue.

6. **Riparian buffer easements**. Anne and Jock Hannum have offered to host a gathering of Township landowners whose property is under easement and contains riparian areas; timing of this is likely to be February or March. Staff at the Brandywine Conservancy has reviewed conservation easements on London Grove properties held by the Conservancy, and the nature of the lands involved, to determine the most promising parties to invite to the gathering. The revised zoning and subdivision/land development ordinance language on forested riparian buffers is progressing with the Township Planning Commission.

Next meeting: Thurs., Dec. 10