

London Grove Township Open Space Committee
Meeting Notes: May 13, 2015

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

1. Status of Open Space Fund. Balance as of May 11: \$1,094,717. This compares to the March 31 amount of \$1,175,886, and the March 12 amount of approx. \$1,149,000. The May 11 balance is net of the \$185,000 purchase price for the easement on the Merner property, which was completed in April.
2. Status of landowner contacts.
 - a. Lamotte. The Brandywine Conservancy's proposal has been signed by Mrs. LaMotte, and work on the easement is being initiated.
 - b. Klotzbach. Lew reported that the Klotzbachs settled on the Spencer Trust property in April. This should enable the Challenge Grant Program application to proceed.
 - c. Hutchison. Outreach to Jim Hutchison will be attempted in order to discuss protection of the London Grove portion of the property through means other than the Challenge Grant Program; this parcel is not agriculturally suited, but might qualify for other grant funding. If protected, it might stimulate interest from neighbors including Poliski, Fisher, and Crowley, and lend weight to any applications for funding or easement sale.
 - d. Yarmouth Stables. It was agreed that sending a letter and brochure to the property owner may be the best means of contact.
3. Boddorff easement. The Board of Supervisors, at its May 6 meeting, considered a request to pay the transaction costs for the proposed donation of a conservation easement on the Boddorff property. The Board agreed to pay the costs, with two caveats: [i] that the total amount of the costs be reduced by the \$1,500 paid to Natural Lands Trust last year for a portion of the costs incurred to that point; and [ii] that a means of protection be established in the event the process is terminated prior to completion. The Committee approved a motion to support the first point (A. Hannum/Neilson). On the second point, NLT has suggested requiring the Boddorffs to reimburse 50% of costs incurred to date if work on the easement is terminated; the Committee approved a motion to support this position (J. Hannum/A. Hannum). Each motion passed unanimously.
4. Riparian buffer protection. The Committee chose to pursue creation of a program to purchase conservation easements on forested riparian buffers. The map of riparian corridors in the Township was reviewed; discussion also focused on the potential value

of such an easement and the most promising stretches of the riparian corridors to target. It was agreed that consultation will be sought from among the Brandywine Conservancy, Stroud Water Research Center, the William Penn Foundation, and the White Clay Wild and Scenic Rivers Program to help lay out a more specific approach.

Next meeting: Thurs., June 11, 5 p.m.