

## **London Grove Township Open Space Committee**

### **Meeting Notes: Jan. 11, 2018**

Attending:     *Members* – Eric Brown, Paddy Neilson, Tina Skinner, Anne Stroud, Lew Wilkinson  
                  *Guest* – Grant DeCosta  
                  *Staff* – David Sweet

#### **1. Easements in progress**

- a.     Brosius. Grant DeCosta of the Brandywine Conservancy reported that they successfully partnered with the Chester County Conservation District in the construction of a concrete stream crossing on another property last fall. This approach could be applied to the Brosius property; recent personnel changes at Pa. DEP make this outcome a bit uncertain, but the easement donation could be completed this year..
- b.     Hutchison. The Brandywine Conservancy continues to develop the easement documents, with settlement anticipated in 2018. A means of access to this property will be established from the family's Penn Township property.

#### **2. Riparian buffers.**

- a.     Grant described funding the Conservancy has received, or is seeking, for the installation and maintenance of riparian buffer vegetation. This includes grant funding from the William Penn Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It was agreed that, in about a month, there should be conversation with the Committee about first-priority landowners to approach for riparian buffer enhancements.
- b.     With many of the potentially targeted properties already under conservation easement, the Committee may rethink the emphasis on securing riparian buffer easements. It may be more effective to simply use grant funds to gain landowner interest in installing and maintaining riparian vegetation. The owners of properties not currently protected by easement could still be approached about the purchase of riparian easements.
- c.     Will Wood e-mailed the Committee with further thoughts on the valuation of riparian easements, following his involvement in the November meeting. Using the agricultural lease value of riparian land as a basis for appraisal may have merit.
- d.     Status of the Township's draft riparian buffer protection ordinance will be sought.
- e.     The Conservancy, among others, will be sponsoring a May 3 program for landowners on riparian buffers.

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

- a.     Status of Open Space Fund. Balance in the Fund as of Jan. 11 was 2,352,786. On Dec. 12, it was \$2,337,015.
- b.     Committee vacancy. The Committee identified a potential member; Paddy will pursue that.

- c. Curland application to sell agricultural easement. Geoff Shellington reports that the title company confirms the Township's easement is in place, but is still seeking evidence it was recorded.
- d. Spring newsletter. Notice of the May riparian buffer program should be included in this edition.

Next meeting: Thurs., Feb. 8, 6 p.m.