

## **London Grove Township Open Space Committee Meeting Notes: June 14, 2018**

Attending:     *Members* – Eric Brown, Paddy Neilson, Lew Wilkinson  
                  *Guest* – John Goodall  
                  *Staff* – David Sweet

### **1. John Goodall, Brandywine Conservancy**

a.     Shaw easement. John is working with the Shaws on a proposed conservation easement donation over parcels in three adjacent townships – New London, Penn, and London Grove. The properties total 46 acres; the one London Grove parcel is 3 acres, located west of Guernsey Rd. and north of East Avondale Rd. While the owners propose to donate the easement, they do not want to pay the transaction costs, which John estimates at \$15,000 (he is seeking an additional \$15,000 for endowment elsewhere). The White Clay Wild and Scenic Rivers Program has committed \$4,500, and John proposed getting the balance of the \$15,000 from London Grove. Neither New London nor Penn has an Open Space EIT.

The Committee agreed to seek an executive session with the Board of Supervisors for their consideration of this request; if favorable, a public hearing would then be needed.

b.     Hutchison easement. This project remains on a Nov.-Dec. completion schedule, and is tied to a County ag easement on the family's Penn Twp. land.

c.     Sheppard. The County is proposing this easement be purchased under the State program, which would cover 55% of the purchase; the Township would pay 45%. The next step will be a new appraisal; the Conservancy can assist in the pursuit of other matching funds.

d.     King. Mr. King, who purchased 19.5 acres of the Poliski property on Hilton Rd., has been in contact with John Goodall and expressed preliminary interest in placing the property under easement.

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

a.     Status of Open Space Fund. Balance in the Fund as of June 12 is \$2,706,798. The April 10 balance was \$2,511,263 and on March 5, \$2,463,737.

b.     Proposed easement legislation. As an outgrowth of the proposed condemnation of Natural Lands Trust's Stoneleigh property in Lower Merion Twp., legislation is under consideration in Harrisburg (HB 2468) that would offer greater protection for eased properties against the use of eminent domain.

c. Catch the Rain program. Further discussion with Shane Morgan re: a possible fall dinner meeting to present the benefits of this program to the Township's homeowners association representatives and individual property owners has led to candidate dates of either Sept. 19 or 20. Ken Battin is receptive to the idea, including Inniscrone as the site.

**3. Riparian buffers**

a. The Brandywine Conservancy is seeking a new round of funding for riparian vegetation and maintenance; if successful, the award of funds would likely be in 2019. As such, a landowner outreach initiative to utilize these funds will be deferred.

b. The Township and the Municipal Authority are eligible to receive riparian planting funds for properties owned by either. Again, this awaits further grant funding and would likely require a matching amount from either. Identification of potential sites will be pursued with the Township.

**Next meeting:** Thurs., July 26, 7 p.m.