

London Grove Township Open Space Committee Meeting Notes: Sept. 13, 2018

Attending: *Members* – Eric Brown, Paddy Neilson, Lew Wilkinson
 Guests – Geoff Shellington, Seth Bradford
 Staff – David Sweet

- 1. Geoff Shellington, Chester County Agricultural Lands Preservation Board.** The status of several properties was discussed. These included a possible easement on the Sheppard property, including easement terms and funding options. The Committee will review other prospective expenditures from the Open Space Fund and formulate a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at the Oct. 11 meeting.

Geoff reported on his contacts with other landowners in the Township, and noted that an application was received for the sale of an agricultural easement on the Fisher property.

- 2. Catch the Rain program – landowner meeting.** This program will occur on Sept. 20 at the Township Bldg. It is designed to inform lot owners about water-conserving property management actions and available rebates for their cost. Shane Morgan of the White Clay Watershed Assoc. and Sylvia Pope of the Brandywine Conservancy will be the presenters. The Committee will serve as host, and assist with setup and refreshments.

- 3. Riparian buffers.** The City of Newark, Del. may provide funding (perhaps \$20,000) for agricultural best management practices in the White Clay watershed. London Grove property owners could benefit from these funds.

4. Status of individual properties.

- a. Brosius. The Brandywine Conservancy has received necessary support from the National Park Service for the proposed stream crossing and riparian plantings, and is now seeking Chester County Conservation District support. Completion of the easement donation remains possible for this year, but may carry into 2019.
- b. Hutchison. Completion of this 40-ac. easement in London Grove, together with a County agricultural easement on land in Penn Twp., is aimed for November.
- c. Needham. This property recently was sold. Lew expects to be in contact with the new owner.

Next meeting: Thurs., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.