

# UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP

387 Ye Olde Highway  
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220

## THE MINUTES OF A MEETING FOR THE UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Judith Henckel, chairperson. Other members present: Michelle Arner and Janet Pearson. Kathleen Barnes and Barrett Transue were unable to attend. Ellen Lott, TNC (The Nature Conservancy) has provided a report but was not in attendance. Richard (Rick) Fisher, new Township Manager, was present.
- II. MINUTES:** Janet moved approve the minutes of February 16, 2016; second by Judy. All aye, motion passed.
- III. Reports:** The Liberty-Water Gap Trail group and others are organizing a ‘get the word out’ event for later this year. Funding is a focus to realize this bicycle/pedestrian trail which is on the PennDOT 10 year plan. A National Geographic online mapping will highlight local areas of interest. The Potomac Street Community Park will likely be shown. The current DCNR grant application for the park does include sand volleyball, basketball and pavilion. The need for restrooms was discussed. Judy noted various Township and County Park and Open Space Plans support each other with regard to hopes for receiving grants and accomplishing our goals.
- IV. PROJECT UPDATES:**
- County Update:**  
*Albert Farm:* Rick Fisher reported the County letter requesting final approval and release of funding will hopefully be placed on the upcoming agenda for action by the Board of Supervisors. There was some discussion about the zoning district associated with this parcel. TPP (Township Partnership Plan) funds, previously dedicated, will be utilized for this agricultural easement.  
*Bocko & Poliskewitz* are in progress.  
There was some discussion about encouraging farm owners to relate with Township Supervisors.
- UMBT Update:**  
The members provided a brief overview for the benefit of Rick Fisher regarding the process of how natural areas are considered for preservation, including contact with landowners, site walks and ranking the properties. Ellen Lott, TNC, is instrumental in that she coordinates with landowners, prepares grant applications and much more. Many of the properties considered over the past seven years were reviewed. Critical protection of vernal pools was also discussed.
- Transue:* The purchase of this conservation easement is progressing. Only County and State funds will be used.
- Ribitzki:* The Township has committed approx. \$15,000 for this fee simple purchase. The buildings are down.
- Eastern Industries:* The status of the possible conservation easement was discussed. Possible compatible uses continue to be considered. It was noted the values of protection are recognized well beyond the local area.
- V. ADJOURN:** 8:30 PM Janet motioned, Michelle second.

**NEXT MEETING:** Scheduled for May 17, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted: Michelle Arner, Secretary