

# 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, DECEMBER 20, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Judith Henckel, chairperson. Other members present: Michelle Arner, Kathleen Barnes and Janet Pearson. Barrett Transue was unable to attend. Rick Fisher, Township Manager, was in attendance.
- II. MINUTES:** Janet moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2016; second by Kathleen. All aye, motion passed. There was no meeting in October or November.
- III. Reports:** Judy reported certain regional projects, including trails, are moving forward with helpful focus from new people who bring a youthful energy to quality of life issues that affect us all. Looking to the future, farmland preservation appears to remain attractive for landowners of farms of all sizes.

**IV. PROJECT UPDATES:**

*Transue:* Closing is anticipated by year end. County and State funds are being utilized for this conservation easement of almost 100 acres of natural area.

*Bocko & Poliskewitz:* These are County farmland preservation projects. Township Partnership funds will be utilized in full and additional UMBT EIT funds will also likely be needed.

*Ribitzki:* This fee simple purchase by TNC will be reduced in acreage, resulting in about half of the original Township monetary contribution.

*Eastern Industries:* The easement is being negotiated. Rick Fisher contributed in a discussion about an 'in earnest' management plan. The members, once again, strongly encourage the Board of Supervisors to move forward with the easement for this property.

- V. NEW BUSINESS:** There was discussion about the need for more Township money to keep the County Farmland Preservation going for next year. Kathleen moved to support a \$250,000 contribution to the program with anticipation of a 100% State match, Janet second. All aye, motion passed.

There was some discussion about the planned draining of Lake Minsi for dam upgrades and the opportunity for the Township to apply for a grant for dredging purposes. The members felt this was not a focus for this board.

There was some discussion about the need for new members for this board. Judy noted there is some interest and the members present thanked Michelle for her years of service and contributions to the group.

- VI. ADJOURN:** 8:35 PM Janet motioned, Kathleen second.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 17, 2017

Respectfully Submitted: Michelle Arner, Secretary