

# 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, MAY 17, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Judith Henckel, chairperson. Other members present: Michelle Arner and Kathleen Barnes. Barrett Transue and Janet Pearson were unable to attend. Rick Fisher, Township Manager, was in attendance.
- II. MINUTES:** Kathleen moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016; second by Judy. All aye, motion passed.
- III. Reports:** Judy reported about conservation biologist, Marissa Altmann, will be giving a presentation at the Supervisors workshop. Focus will be on the economic importance of the biological landscape of this area. Judy added there are groups associated with educational institutions such as Lafayette, Lehigh and E. Stroudsburg Universities as well as the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area that continue to produce studies demonstrating the unique natural habitats that support special plants and animals especially here in Upper Mt. Bethel Township. Potential to bring these educational opportunities to the local high school level is realistic, especially on site at the former Eastern Industry property. There was some discussion relating to the trail, previously mapped by EAC members, and using this trail for educational purposes.
- IV. PROJECT UPDATES:**
- County Update:**
- Albert Farm:* The Supervisors voted (3-2) to release the funds to preserve this farm. Closing is set for May 24.
- Bocko & Poliskewitz:* County is coordinating steps needed for preservation of these farms. Township Partnership funds will be utilized this year. Additional EIT funding will also likely be needed for the farmland preservation projects. Interest in preserving farms is evident with new applications being considered for next year.
- UMBT Update:**
- Ribitzki:* The Township has committed approximately \$15,000 for this fee simple purchase. The buildings are down.
- Eastern Industries:* Negotiations with Natural Lands Trust will move forward. Potential for reuse of the building on this property was briefly discussed. An organized walk on the property, to get people out there, is encouraged.
- V. ADJOURN:** 8:33 PM Michelle motioned, Kathleen second.
- NEXT MEETING:** To be determined.

Respectfully Submitted: Michelle Arner, Secretary