

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP

387 Ye Olde Highway
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Judith Henckel, chairperson. Other members present: Jason Albert, and Janet Pearson. Township Manager Rick Fisher was also in attendance.

II. MINUTES

Janet moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2017; seconded by Jason. All aye, motion passed.

III. REPORTS

Judy reported on:

- Relayed a message from Ellen on Open Space projects. One is close to application presentation. An evaluation walk of the property will be scheduled. Present members are able to make a Sunday Feb. 26, 1 pm date.
 - Board of Supervisors deliberations on going for partnership in a "Liberty-Water Gap Trail Alliance"
- Rick reported on the current status of the County/Township Farmland Preservation Initiative:

- At the recent Farmland Preservation Board meeting, with Plainfield, Moore and UMBT (Rick) representatives present, FPB declined 2017 allocated funding from those three Townships. The County would not negotiate the 100% amount of match return for each Township from the State for the State/County program. The County will still provide its allocation of \$500,000 for fiscal 2017.
- 2017 farm ranking list should be out in March. 2016 farm list is being implemented; UMBT had two eligible farms listed.
- There was discussion at the FPB meeting to move the application date earlier than November 1 to give County Administration more time before the next year budget talks begin in September. The process of ASA application procedure in UMBT was brought up.
- It was also requested from FPB that Townships have a representative at their meetings and take on more of the initial contact with farmers.

IV. PROJECT UPDATES

County Update

Bocko: has closed, Rick will get us the figures.

Poliskiewicz: is in final closing. These 2015 listed farms coordinated with County for preservation.

UMBT Update

Transue: Closed on December 27, 2017. County/State; No UMBT funding for easement or maintenance agreement.

Ribitzki: Anticipate May/June 2017 project close

Deputy-Walton: Will confirm evaluation walk date for this Sunday at 1 pm.

2010-3, 2010-5 Township EI Properties BOS Steps

- Board of Supervisors' easement comments were sent to NLT early this month.
- Since then BOS voted at Feb. 13 meeting to carve out more acreage with a second access to Audubon Drive and make the agreement between themselves as easement holder/monitor and as landowner. No third party involvement, but still use EIT OS funding. There was a lengthy discussion of OSAB views and those the Manager laid out from the BOS as to the validity of the process, how it would be carried out and by whom.

V. ADJOURN 9:20 pm Janet motioned, Jason seconded.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
- *Judith Henckel, Chair*