

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP

387 Ye Olde Highway
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Judith Henckel, chairperson. Other members present: Jason Albert, Janet Pearson and TNC consultant, Ellen Lott.

II. MINUTES

Jason moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2017; seconded by Janet. All aye, motion passed.

III. REPORTS

Judy reported on:

- Board of Supervisors deliberations on going for partnership in a "Liberty-Water Gap Trail Alliance"
- No report on the current status of the County/Township Farmland Preservation Initiative progress on 2016 farms nor the 2017 farm ranking list.
- March 27 BOS workshop will have a presentation by the Appalachian Trial Conservancy representative

IV. PROJECT UPDATES

County Update

Will request farmland final acreage and costs from our Manager, Rick to update our data file. All information from this County program comes to the township office on those property closing figures. We have the original proposed estimates.

UMBT Update

Ribitzki: Anticipate May/June 2017 project close

2016-1 D-W: Evaluation walk completed Sunday, March 12, 2017. Worked through our UMBT Ecologically Sensitive Natural Areas Preservation Evaluation Form using notes, maps provided by Ellen on location, vernal pools, streams for the wooded approximately 60 acre site. There were many streams and an abundant number of vernal pools still frozen with no visible salamander egg masses. We will finalize evaluation next meeting with more data on soils, floodplains and PNDI (PA Natural Diversity Index) report.

2016-2 S Successful conservation easement inquiry and interest, but delay for family matters.

2017-1 Inquiry for Fee simple. Discussion to proceed as warranted.

2010-3, 2010-5 Township Eastern Industries Properties – update

Board of Supervisors' were advised by Township Solicitor at April 13 BOS meeting that a qualified 3rd party is required for a conservation easement if using Township Earned Income Tax (EIT) funds. No determination on other avenues as self-holder of easement. Waiting for response from NLT on BOS comment letter sent in February. March 27 BOS workshop report from township engineer about carving out another 20 acres along Audubon Road from the easement to expand the original 16.

It was noted the EAC is planning an Earth Day Walk on Saturday, April 22 from 9-12, rain date the 23rd. We could help promote the walk to residents to learn of their interests for the site. Walk is listed on the township website.

V. ADJOURN 9:15 pm Janet motioned, Jason seconded.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
- *Judith Henckel, Chair*