

# UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP

387 Ye Olde Highway  
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-52220

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017  
MEETING MINUTES

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Janet Pearson, Vice-Chairman. Members Present: Jason Albert, Elise Transue, and Terry Abramson. UMBT Manager Rick Fisher, Ellen Lott from The Nature Conservancy and several members of the Public were also in attendance.

New Members Elise Transue and Terry Abramson were introduced.

## II. MINUTES

Janet Pearson moved to approve the previous month's meeting however there was no quorum of the previous month's Board to approve them. Rick Fisher will check with Township Solicitor on how to handle the approval.

## III. REORGANIZATION

Elise Transue nominated Janet Pearson as Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Albert. Motion passed.

Janet Pearson nominated Elise Transue as Vice-Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Albert, Motion passed.

Elise Transue nominated Jason Albert as Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Abramson, Motion passed.

## IV. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

UMBT Manager Rick Fisher gave a brief presentation concerning the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. He explained that the Township is an agency and the Open Space Advisory Board is a committee working under said agency and is governed by the Sunshine Act. Mr. Fisher stressed the importance of the Ethics Law, as well as the Open Records Law.

Janet Pearson questioned the Committee doing inspections of properties to be preserved. Mr. Fisher stated a committee can do fact finding field work, however no decisions can be made while in the field. Meetings may be suspended and reconvened after fact finding session, or can be adjourned with notation about the field work.

Ellen Lott, The Nature Conservancy, questioned if pending real estate easements could be held in an Executive Session. Talk about agreement of sale in public prior to a signed agreement could jeopardize the agreement. Mr. Fisher stated Committees may hold an Executive session if properly moved and seconded. All purchase of property should be held in executive session until a signed agreement is made. Ellen also gave an update on the Ribitski property that has been voted on. And also the Deputy Walton property will be brought up for vote in the upcoming weeks.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

New Applications for vacancies on the Board. Letters were submitted and should be approved in BOS meeting.

2018 Budget needs to be revised. Board decided on a budget of \$4000, broken down with \$3000 going towards training and conferences, \$500 for mailings/publications, \$500 for landowner events.

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UMBT Website up to date, Judy has more items to submit. Janet requested it be sent to OSAB for review.

Fall Ballot Referendum. OSAB is in agreement that we cannot campaign as a Board but should be ready to ask questions from public if they arise.

EI status. The BOS made a motion in their Meeting to use the EIT funds to pay off balance depending on the appraisal of the property. Elise Transue asked what the legality of using the EIT funds for said purchase. Ellen Lott asked what was the appraisal. Rick Fisher stated it was fair market value, 64 acres of the property is being removed and the rest protected. Elise Transue made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Albert to Recommend to the BOS that the Eastern Industries property be preserved through a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Agency contingent on the clear legality of using the EIT funds to do so.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

David Due, recusing himself as a Supervisor, was present as a Representative for the Slate Belt Aquaculture and Environmental Research Center. A non-profit 501(3)c organization whose mission is education in fish and plant raising for food. At this time Elise Transue made a Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet Pearson to go into Executive Session. Motion passed. Executice Session lasted from 8:20 PM-8:45 PM.

Janet asked Rick and or Ellen for the forms and process when individuals come forth to preserve properties.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Terry Abramson made a Motion , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elise Transue to adjorn at 8:50 PM until next meeting October 17, 2017.

Respectively Submitted

*Jason M. Albert*

Secretary