

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP

387 Ye Olde Highway
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-52220

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

Monday February 19, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Janet Pearson, Chairman. Members Present: Jason Albert, Terry Abramson, Laura Bocko, and Nick Graziano. Several members of the Public were also in attendance, as well as Township Manager Rick Fisher and Martin Pinter from the BOS.

II. AGENDA

Motion by Terry Abramson, 2nd by Laura Bocko to add the Webinar to Old Business. Motion passed.

III. MINUTES

-Motion by Laura Bocko, 2nd by Nick Graziano to approve the Minutes from the 12/19/2017 Meeting with corrections. Motion passed.

-Motion by Terry Abramson, 2nd by Nick Graziano to approve the Minutes from the 1/15/2018 Meeting, Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Webinar could not be taped. Members can go back and try to watch from the link. It was an information series on residential wells.

V. EI STATUS

-On January 27, 2018 the BOS updated the EI Resolution language to include a No Bio-sludge clause added.

-The Resolution has been added to the Township Website, and the OSAB portion is up to date.

-EI area that is preserved needs to have a street address. Zoning can do that, Janet will assist. Rick Fisher will also assist and let MR Karasak know.

-Permitted/Non-permitted uses. We should have a list of priorities, and in the future the possibility of the Third Party will assist.

-Judy Henckel suggested adding Studies and Research on plants, animals, and aquatic.

-BOS questioned hunted. Possibility of a drawing for a few permits.

-Judy questioned the pressure of people walking on the property and its impacts. We can restrict what areas we open.

Nick Graziano gave a report on his communications with ESU professors. He stated they were interested in using the EI property for internships. There is competition in this Area because of all the National, State and County Parks. A Discussion was held over the duties and responsibilities of the intern. Rick Fisher said he would assist in writing a job description for the OSAB to present to the BOS. Judy Henckle questioned what exactly would they be doing for 40 hrs a week. Rick Fisher replied the possibilities are endless.

A walk through for Members of the OSAB is being scheduled for March 3, rain date of March 4 at 10:00 AM.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Members of the OSAB attending the PALTA Conference chose which seminars they will be attending.

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-Judy Henckle presented information that Northampton County Open Space Board round of applications are coming out. She also discussed The Northern Tier Trail. And touched on the Lake Minsi project stressing its importance to our area. The newly elected County Council is very big into Open Space.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Nick Graziano made a motion, 2nd by Terry Abramson to adjourn until our next meeting, March 19, 2018 at 8:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Jason M. Albert

Secretary

Recommendations on permitted and non permitted uses:

OPEN DAWN TO DUSK EXCEPT FOR DESIGNATED NIGHT PROGRAMS

1. Permit Walking/ Fitness and cross country skiing trails with various fitness or exercise stations along the Trail. This could be a good Scout or Community service project.
 2. Non motorized bikes, e bikes, horseback riding on approved trails as certain areas should be restricted .
 2. Birds, wildlife and flora watching. Possibly putting up nesting bird houses and blinds for bird watching And photography.
 3. Permit fishing in accordance with rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.
 4. Permit improvements such as bridges, ramps and docks at ponds.
 5. Allow picnic tables and wastebaskets intermittently.
 5. Allow motorized vehicles only for maintenance and security.
 6. More trails where there is no damage to environment and protected plants and species.
 7. Walking pets must require a leash as covered under state law coverage and must pickup after pet..
 8. Allow tapping of trees for sap when ask for permission from township.
 9. Allow permitted trapping in designated areas during specified time with state license and township ID tag.
 9. Have township permitted hunting in designated area with state license and township ID tag for limited time during archery and muzzleloader/flintlock season.
 10. Allow study and research of plants, animals and habitats for approval of scope of work showing purpose, method and lists by approved university and professionals or schools for educational purposes.
 11. Allow designated events such as star watching /gazing or salamander walks or woodcocks and owls and Bats events with guidance.
 12. Allow Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to use for earning merit badges.
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1. No construction of buildings on property.
 2. No ice skating or ice fishing on property.
 3. No swimming on property.
 4. No mining ,quarrying, fracking or removal of water for commercial use.
 5. No spraying or dumping of hazardous chemicals or wastes.
 6. No random cutting of native trees and plants that are not invasive without consultation of Forestry Bureau DCNR .
 7. No motorized recreation vehicles with the exception of snowmobiles on 10 inches of snow accumulation