

5/26/2021 open space advisory board meeting minutes

Members present were Janet Pearson, David Friedman, Nick Graziano, Laura Bocko, Jason Albert was not present. Judy Henckel in audience

Courtesy of the floor: Judy reported that UMBT is supposed to have 2 representatives and 1 alternate for The Liberty To Water Gap Alliance meetings. Usually no one shows up but this month Manager Nelson came as the alternate. It's important for each community to have someone there to represent them.

Approve Agenda: David Friedman made motion seconded by Laura Bocko to accept agenda. Carried 4-0

Approve Minutes: David Friedman made a motion seconded by Nick Graziano to approve the corrected minutes. Carried 4-0

Fund Balance: Thanks to Stavros for doing a right to know and then forwarding the information to Janet we can report that the monthly bank statement shows: April 1²⁰²¹ there was \$2,092,797.83 + \$52,674.43 credits -\$989.75 debits for a balance of \$2,144,682.53 as of April 30,2021. Why can't the open space board committee chairperson get a monthly report for their meeting. But we would also like to know who the checks were paid to for the total of \$989.75.

OLD BUSINESS:

As for wetland delineation Penn Trails said they no longer do them as they are too busy. Ed says the reply from Gilmore and Associates was that they kind of wanted to do it, but they were very busy. Ed didn't say if they sent a quote. Kevin Keats submitted a quote of \$24,000.00 to do preserve plus Raesly Woods or \$21,870.00 for just the preserve. David Friedman made a motion seconded by Nick Graziano that we recommend the board accept Kevin Keats bid based on his qualifications and the lack of interest by the others. Kevin is also a certified Bog Turtle Specialist. He noted in Scope of Work Section that he is not a certified wetland surveyor, but our township sewage enforcement officer Scott Policelli is a certified wetlands surveyor.

We still feel we need a legal decision on what, how much and where the 25% of our E.I.T. monies can be used for the maintenance program allowed in Act 115.

From the 85 letters we sent out we have had one response so far asking us to come look at their 99.9 acres and 2 others have shown some interest. At this point Janet, Laura Bocko and Laura Baird from The Heritage Conservancy are going on Thursday morning 5/27/21 to do a preliminary look and go over information and paperwork for applicant. If it moves forward all committee members will walk and rank the property.

We discussed how after complaints by township manager about too much land in township open space program the manager said he was out and walked the RPL property looking at their open space land. If they donate that land to the township it means it will be owned by UMBT and therefore it will be tax free. But land that the open space board puts an easement on is still taxed at its regular rate. As most of those lands are in Act 319 the only other benefit the land owner gets for preserving his property is a payment for the value of his development rights.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:15 PM David Friedman seconded by Laura Bocko a motion to adjourn. Carried
4-0

Janet Pearson, Chairperson