

# WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

## January, 2022 Minutes

- **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Ivy Ross, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 pm. Present at the Hybrid meeting were Ivy Ross, Chairperson; Sharon Kaszon, Vice Chair; Kathy Newcomb, Secretary and Historic Commission Liaison; Bill Connolly, Planning Commission Liaison; Mike Diorka, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Rick Weiss, Park and Rec Liaison; Barbara Brown, Fred Suffian, Ruth Schemm, and Fred Gaines. Also in attendance was Guy Powell.

Ms. Ross led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Public Comment:** None.

- **Business:**

- a) **Board Elections.**

The following officers were elected for 2022: Chair: Ivy Ross, Vice Chair: Bill Connolly, Secretary: Kathy Newcomb.

- b) **Removal of Trees on Open Space by a Resident.**

Lorraine Thiers in The Green Ridge development called township police about a neighbor who was removing trees on the open space between their properties. A lengthy discussion ensued on how to inform homeowners of where open space is and the restrictions associated with it. In the incident cited, the township position is that the offending party will have to replace vegetation according to a list to be supplied by the township. The following motion was unanimously approved by the Committee:

*The Open Space and Land Preservation Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Zoning Ordinance provisions which prohibit clearing any wooded area, except upon issuance of a permit be enforced by issuance of a Notice assessing a fine as provided by the Ordinance and by requiring, in accordance with Ordinance provisions, that the offender restore the area to it's prior condition at the offenders expense following approval of a restoration plan by the Board and that the work be approved by the Township Engineer upon it's completion*

Upon viewing parcel maps it was noted that a number of sheds belonging to homeowners in the same area are infringing on the township open space there. Ideas for how to make residents aware of open space infringement were discussed. A link article will be forthcoming.

- c) **Land Conservation Organization Discussion.**

Ruth Schemm gave an update on the status of conservation easements. There have been some issues with Natural Lands' completion of work they were hired to do. They will finish the work they were contracted to do, but the township may need to seek other avenues for conservation. Various ideas were discussed. Some members of the BOS will be interviewing other possible Land Trusts.

- d) **Dedicated Residential Open Space Conservation.**

Buyers of a Pickertown Rd. property consisting of 10 acres but restricted by some permanent preservation may seek permission for some barn construction and land clearing. The committee passed the following motion:

*The Open Space and Land Preservation Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the sketch plan showing several proposed buildings and fenced in pastures on permanently preserved open space located on Pickertown Road not be approved. The land on which these improvements would be constructed, although located on a private lot, is permanently protected open space created in connection with a 3 lot RA/Cluster subdivision. A condition of the ordinance and the approval was the permanent preservation of 83% of the land in question. It is located on all 3 lots and clearly indicated*

*on the record plan. It may not be built upon. The ordinance does allow the Board of Supervisors to approve a plan for agriculture on preserved property but the building and pastures proposed go beyond the kind of simple growing of crops that may be consistent with preserved open space, particularly since the parcel in question lies between the Weisel Preserve and the Mill Creek Preserve and connects them visually.*

**e) Climate Action Plan and Questionnaire**

Fred Suffian reviewed the survey, which is now available to residents.

**f) Township Trails and Open Space Map.**

Some areas need to be added to map.

**g) Undocumented Township Owned Open Space Parcels.**

Several parcels were identified. They include 1) Forrest Glen (3 parcels, plus a 37 acre parcel owned by Glen Group); 2) Pickertown Knoll; 3) Penrose Walk.

**h) Cardamone Update**

Request for variances will be before the Planning Commission at their next meeting.

**i) Homegrown Gardens**

Barbara Brown, Ivy Ross, and Ruth Schemm will be spearheading these.

**j) Educational Programs on Open Space**

Check Homegrown National Park website. This and other initiatives will be publicized in the Link. Barbara Brown will write an article and hold classes for interested people the end of March. Actual plantings may take place the end of May at the pool. Ruth Schemm described the F.I.S.H. project where people would monitor waterways on their property or nearby areas. It was mentioned that joint committee meetings would be revived.

- **Adjournment.** Sharon Kaszon moved to adjourn at approximately 9:58 pm. Barbara Brown seconded.