

WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

February, 2022 Minutes

- **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Ivy Ross, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:36 pm. Present at the Hybrid meeting were Ivy Ross, Chairperson Bill Connolly, Vice Chair; Kathy Newcomb, Secretary; Sharon Kaszon, Mike Diorka, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Barbara Brown, Fred Suffian, Ruth Schemm, and Fred Gaines. Also in attendance was Guy Powell. Rebecca Davenport Sharp and David Sharp, community members were in the audience.

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

- **Public Comment:** None.

- **Business:**

- a) **Open Space Ordinance Update**

Updated ordinance was reviewed by the members. Two more members at large have been added. Activities have been updated. The importance of members of other committees reporting back to their boards was discussed. Summaries may also be posted to the township website and reported in the E-Link. The benefit of two combined committee meetings per year was discussed.

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

Several members visited the subject property and verified the removal of mature trees and understory. Attempts will be made to contact the landscaper who did the removal to obtain an inventory of what was removed. The resident who authorized the removal will be required to replace trees. It was also mentioned that notices should be sent to homeowners who have sheds on township open space, requiring them to remove the sheds.

Fred Gaines has written an article for the Link about open space infringement.

- c and d) **Protection of Lands Not Eased- Discussion**

- Conservation Organization -Discussion**

Ruth Schemm gave an update on the status of conservation easements. Alternate land trusts are being considered. Ways to protect open space without putting easements on everything are being explored.

- e) **Dedicated Residential Open Space Update (Pickertown Rd. Property)**

Given the recommendation of the Open Space committee to not grant further construction on deed restricted property, the land owners have decided not to move forward.

- f) **Undocumented Township Owned Open Space Parcels**

Township Solicitor working on updating document deeds.

- g) **Weisel Spring Planting Project**

A total of three grants generating \$30,000 will fund this project. A total of at least 50 trees, 30 shrubs, and 3 benches will be installed. The BOS will be asked to put the project out to bid with a potential May 1, 2022 date.

- h) **Mill Creek Preserve Meadow Seeding Plan- Natural Lands Plans**

Township will consider applying for a 50% match grant through DCNR. This could cover planting as well as funding for trail leading from future segment C and a possible parking lot. May also be applying for boardwalk project at Lion's Pride Park.

- i) **Homegrown Gardens**

Barbara Brown wrote an article for the Link about pollinator gardens. She will be teaching a class in June at Mary Barness Community Pool and helping plant a small garden at the swim club. Pollinator plugs will be sold at the first Warrington Farmer's Market.

j) Climate Action Plan Update

Fred Suffian provided an update on the survey, which will continue for another month. There have been 77 respondents so far. Of interest is that from the replies received to date, the number one priority is to acquire more open space. Planting more trees was another priority. A link for the survey is supposed to be available on the township website, the township facebook page) and the EAC facebook page. The results of the survey will help determine what grants and educational opportunities to pursue.

k) Temple Graduate Students

A Temple professor would like Ivy to work with her students as they make plans for projects in the township.

l) Cardamone Update

Plans were sent back for revisions. Still on hold.

m) Approval Of Minutes

Minutes from the January, 2022 meeting were approved with minor revisions.

- **Adjournment.** Sharon Kaszon moved to adjourn at approximately 9:22 pm. Barbara Brown seconded.