

# WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

April, 2022 Minutes

- **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Ivy Ross, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 pm. Ms. Ross led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending at the Hybrid meeting were:

Ivy Ross, Chairperson	Ruth Schemm, Board of	Rick Weiss
Bill Connolly, Vice Chair	Supervisors Liaison	Mike Diorka
Kathy Newcomb, Secretary	Barbara Brown	Guy Powell
	Fred Suffian	

- **Public Comment:** None.

- **Business:**

**a) Presentation by Mr. Luber- Possible Referendum**

Barry Luber provided a good review of the last referendum in 2013. Some highlights:

The 3 million dollars lasted through 2022, with about \$200,000 remaining. Funding was stretched through use of several grants. Recommending a tax increase to fund future open space was presented to the committee. A tax of 1/16 of 1% would generate approximately \$665,000 per year. A new PA bill allows for 25% of that money to be used to improve existing properties. It would be appropriate for the Open Space Committee to recommend this tax increase. Bill Connolly moved that the committee recommend pursuing a tax increase if a referendum on the ballot passes.

Barbara Brown seconded. All approved. The motion reads:

“The open Space Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors that they establish a regular and reliable source of funding for open space preservation, improvement and maintenance by seeking voter approval, by referendum, of an small increase in the Earned Income Tax, which increase would be dedicated to those purposes, in accordance with law.”

**b) Update Ordinance on ATV Use on Township Open Space**

Steve Palameri of Coach Light Circle was present to inform the committee about ATVs encroaching on township owned open space behind his property. It was noted that the ordinance needs to be tightened.

**c) Natural Lands Presentation Discussion and Comments - Master Plan**

Natural Lands will be presenting their final draft plan at the May 11 Open Space Committee meeting. Ivy suggested submitting any issues people are aware of to Rick Trailes before the May meeting. It was asked if Rick will be coming out to look at the parcels again, with Ivy to follow up on that.

**d) DCNR Meadows Grant Submission**

Application for a grant to develop plans for meadows has been submitted. The main purpose for establishing meadows is for storm water management.

**e) Open Space Ordinance Update and Mission Statement and Goals**

The mission statement as written was approved by all members. Article 8 “Open Space and Land Preservation Committee” was reviewed and passed. Some goals discussed in regard to article 8 were to identify all open space parcels; come up with a greenways plan; develop a management plan for rest of open space parcels not designated. It was suggested that the township partner with non-profits for open space preservation.

**f) Removal of Trees on Open Space by a Resident**

Trees have been paid for and planted.

**g) Deer Management on Township Parcels**

The deer management committee has met 3 times. It is chaired by Andy Oles. If implemented, a small group of eligible hunters would participate.

**h) Weisel Spring Planting Project**

Trees and shrubs purchased through grant money will be planted by Arche Wild in May. Benches have also been ordered. Garges will be asked to remove his defunct equipment from the property.

**i) Update on Possible Land Conservation Groups**

Three trusts are being considered.

**j) Stream Health Project**

Ruth Schemm has spearheaded a program to involve residents in monitoring streams near their homes. Monitoring could start at Mill Creek Preserve. A grant has been applied for.

**k) Climate Action Plan Update**

115 surveys have been received to date. It was recommended that the EAC mail out a survey.

**l) Approval Of Minutes**

Minutes from the March, 2022 meeting were approved as amended.

- **Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 pm.