

WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

June, 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	Fred Gaines
Bill Connolly, Vice Chair	Supervisors Liaison	Rick Weiss
Kathy Newcomb, Secretary	Barbara Brown	Mike Diorka
	Fred Suffian	Guy Powell

- **Public Comment:** None.

- **Business:**

a) **Natural Lands Master Plan**

Chair has sent the final draft to all members. Natural Lands will be presenting the plan to the BOS in July. Chair noted that 90% of improvements to Weisel Preserve were funded with grants. As part of this discussion, the tabling of the proposed referendum for a tax increase to fund open space was discussed. There were concerns that if the referendum were to fail, it could not be placed on the ballot again for 5 years. Concerned committees will use the next year to educate residents on the value of open space initiatives and the need for maintenance funding. For the meantime, Chair described some additional grant funding that may be available, particularly with the new infrastructure bill.

b) **Weisel Preserve Project Update**

Trees and shrubs were recently planted. They are guaranteed for one year. The idea of using ground mount solar panels to shield the leaf drop off area was discussed.

c) **Discussion of Open Space Mowing**

A resident of Red Stone community, who's property abuts township Open Space has asked permission to mow a buffer behind his property. It was largely believed that this would be a bad idea. An ordinance exists that addresses this issue. It was suggested that staff members be educated on this to answer inquiries. A possible Link article was also discussed.

d) **Discussion of Update to the Park and Rec and Open Space Plan**

The Plan drafted in 2018 was light on open space issues. Discussion ensued about amending the plan. Ivy and Fred Suffian will spearhead a group to review parcels. The need for a management plan was also discussed. Ruth Schemm will check to see if Public Works has a plan.

e) **Discussion of Documenting Open Space Parcels**

Was covered in discussing point d).

f) **Trail Beacon App. Information**

Fred Suffian explained there will be a number of beacons along township trails. Advice was given as to what might be best for the historical information signs that the Historical Commission and Historical Society wish to install. Both beacons and QR codes could be used, but staffing constraints may make it difficult to maintain QR code links on the township website. The beacons are battery operated and do require downloading an App to one's phone. You can put your text into the program. Lion's Pride Park has beacons installed and can be checked as an example. Bluetooth range is about 10 feet

g) Climate Plan Update

On May 24, 2022, Fred Suffian presented to the BOS on solar use. The group researching this meets weekly and will have a written plan within a month.

l) Approval Of Minutes

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

- **Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:27 pm.