

# Open Space and Land Preservation Committee-Annual Report



June 8, 2021

# Open Space and Land Preservation Committee Members

- Ivy Ross - Chairperson, Environmental Advisory Council, Liaison
- Sharon Kaszan - Vice Chairperson, Member of the Public
- Kathy Newcomb – Secretary- Historic Commission, Liaison
- Vince Evans - Planning Commission, Liaison
- Ted Cicci – Member of the Public
- Barbara Brown- Member of the Public
- Rick Weiss- Parks and Recreation, Liaison
- Ruth Schemm- Board of Supervisors, Liaison

# Background

In 2012, the citizens of Warrington Township passed an Open Space Referendum, authorizing the Board of Supervisors to borrow up to 3 million dollars over 20 years, to purchase and protect open space. This commitment demonstrated a clear demand for protecting as much of the remaining open space and natural areas left in Warrington Township.

# Uses of Referendum Money

- 1. To finance, acquire, and improve open space by purchasing undeveloped land and farmland.**
- 2. Improve the trail system by acquiring trail linkages and expanding the trails system.**
- 3. Improve infrastructure in existing parks.**
- 4. Acquire and preserve historic lands and structures.**

# OSLP Priorities In 2020

- ❖ Identify Open Space parcels for acquisition and for Conservation Easements.
- ❖ Open Space signage replacement and addition of new signage on unmarked open space parcels.
- ❖ Review and comment on development plans.
- ❖ Work with Natural Lands on the Master Plan for the Mill Creek Preserve, Weisel Preserve and Emerson Farms Preserve.
- ❖ Hold first Public Meeting (via zoom) for the Master Plan and coordinate single person interviews.
- ❖ Worked with Natural Lands on Open Space Management Plans, Environmental Documentation, Grants, and Conservation Easements, etc.
- ❖ Continue input on Residential Conservation Development Properties.

# Friends of Mill Creek Preserve 2020 Lecture Series

## Using Natural Resources to Protect Birds

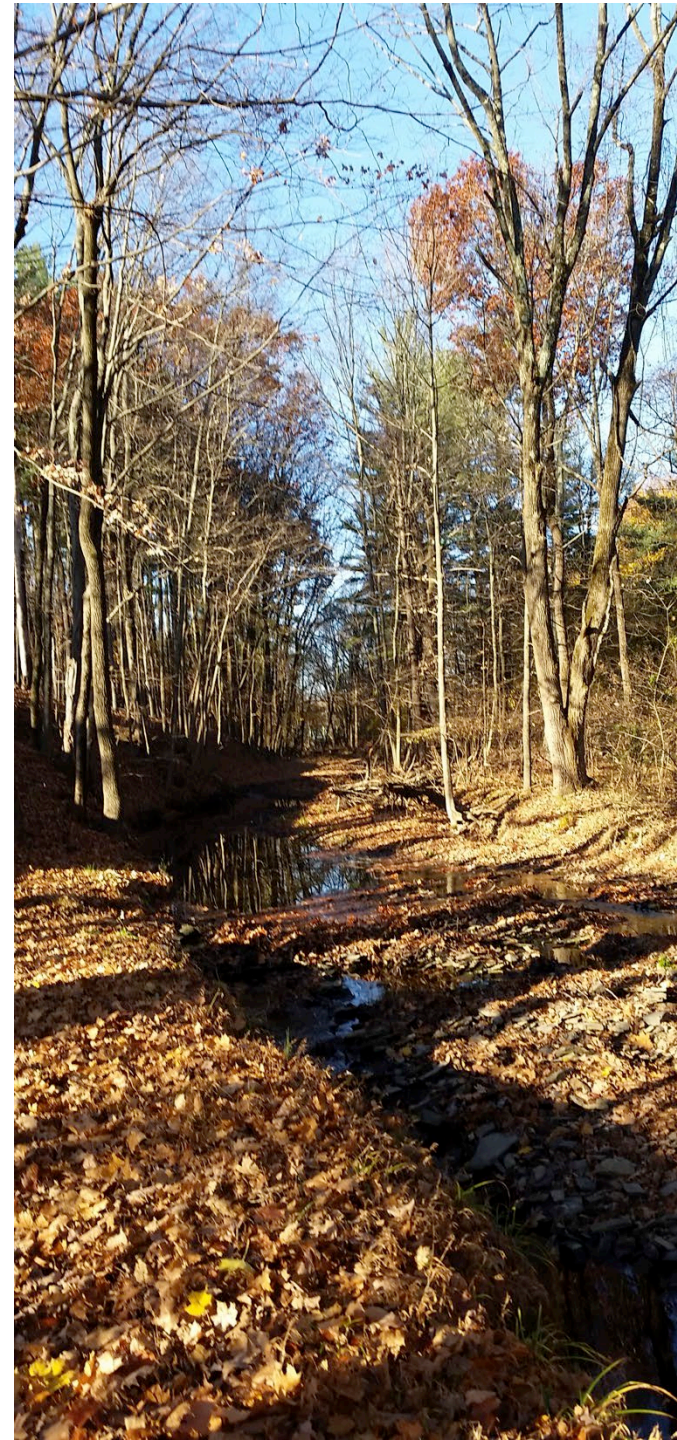
Mr. Vinobha Pannerelvam- WEAC and President of  
Bucks County Birders Club  
January 8, 2020

## Establishing Meadows

Mr. Drew Gilchrist- DCNR Representative  
February 12, 2020

## Chimney Swift Conservation

Scott Burnet- Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
March 11, 2020



# Working with Natural Lands on Master Plan for Mill Creek, Weisel and Emerson Farms Preserves



# Master Plan - Key Person Interviews with Natural Lands

## ◆ **Connie Ace -**

Connie has an outstanding knowledge of the history of the Township. She is on the Historic Commission, and will be able to provide you with extensive information on the Weisel Preserve, as well as a most of what you are looking for.

## ◆ **Frank Ace -**

Frank comes from one of the original farmers in the Township. He has a lot of information to share on the history of farming in Warrington.

## ◆ **Janice DeVito -**

Janice is a long-time resident of Warrington Township. She is a long-term member of the Township Zoning and Hearing Board and is a member of the Warrington Lions Club.

## ◆ **Jim Furlong -**

Jim is the director of the Warrington Lions Club. He is a long-time resident of Warrington Township. He has a lot of contacts, knows a lot of people and has an extensive history of Warrington Township.

## ◆ **Jim Molinari -**

Jim was on the Warrington Township Board of Supervisors back in the 80's. He was one of the original elected officials to discuss Open Space, back when there was over 10,000 acres of undeveloped land in Warrington. He also was one of the first to develop a trail plan during his tenure. Jim prepared a 20-page typed document with photos to his successor on the BOS.





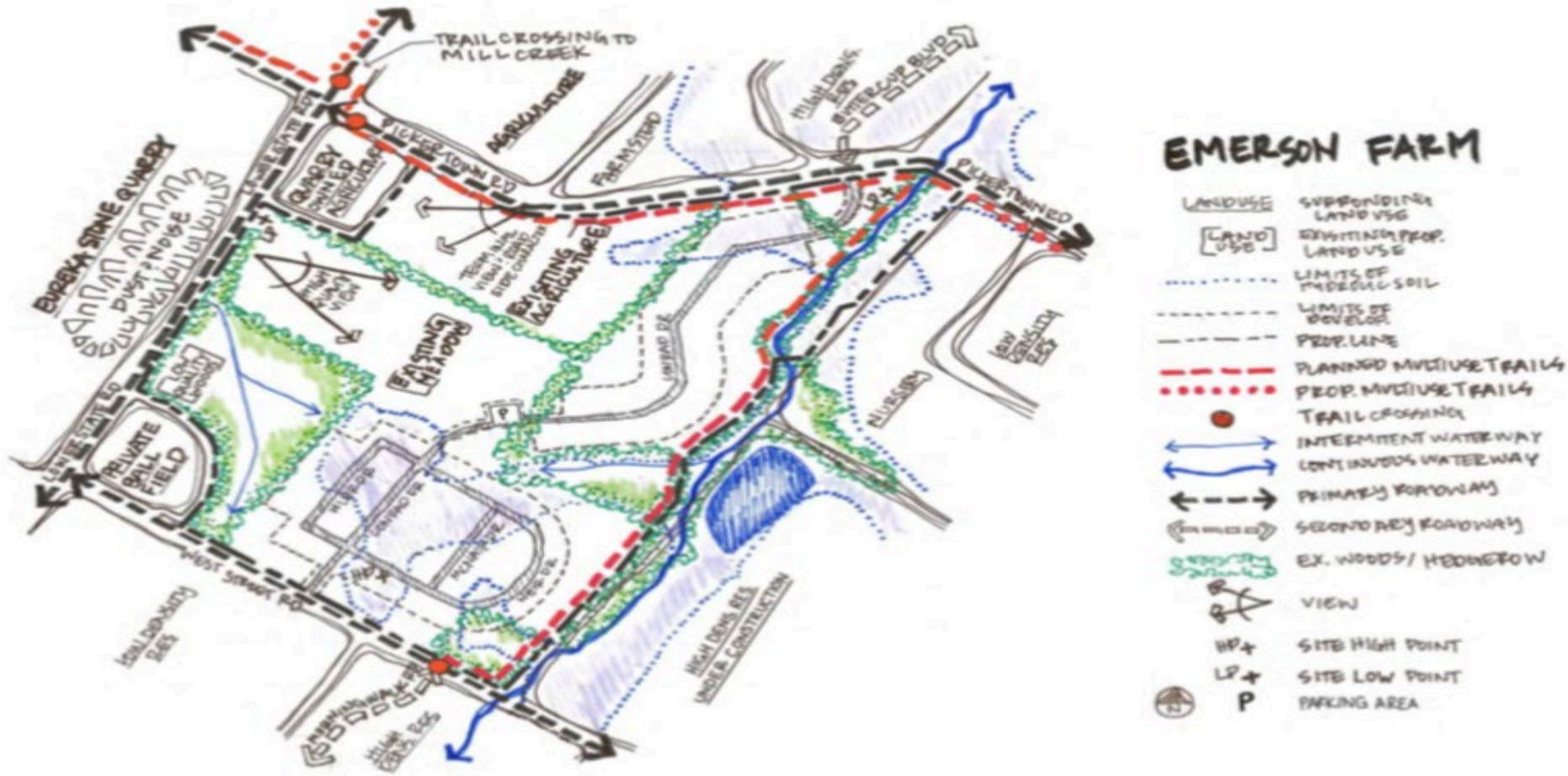
# First Public Meeting (Zoom) with Warrington Township

Natural Lands made their first presentation of their draft findings for the three parcels included in the plan. Following the presentation, a questionnaire was sent to the attendees for feedback and suggestions.

Attendees included those from the following:

- ◆ Open Space and Land Preservation Committee
- ◆ Environmental Advisory Council
- ◆ Bike, Hike and Trails Committee
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Committee
- ◆ Historic Commission
- ◆ Members of the Board of Supervisors
- ◆ Township Staff
- ◆ Public

# Analysis of Emerson Farm Preserve



# Analysis of Mill Creek Preserve



# Analysis of Weisel Preserve



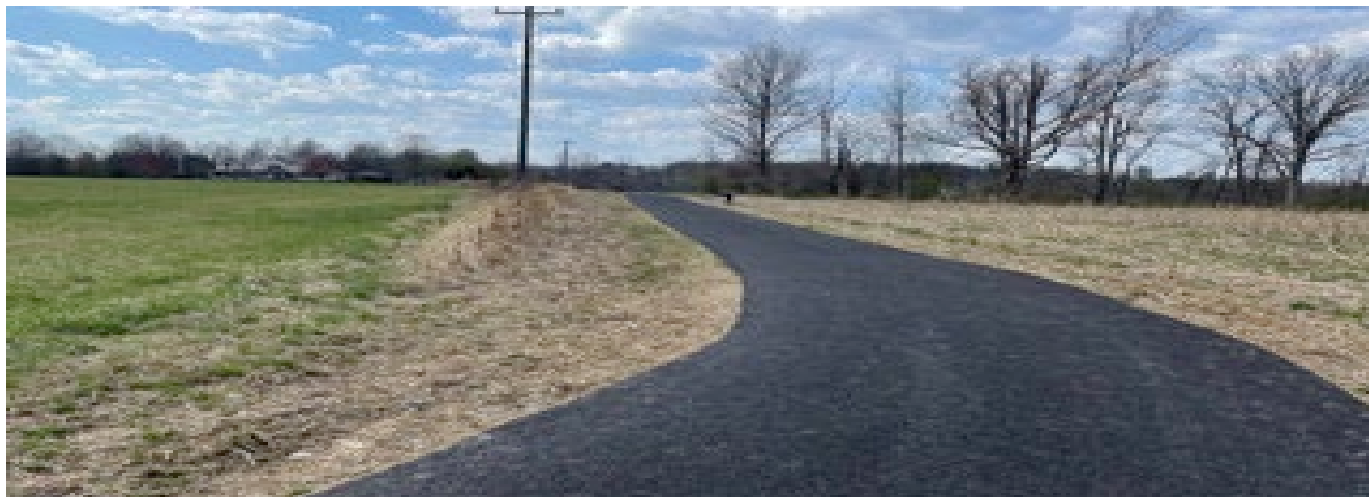
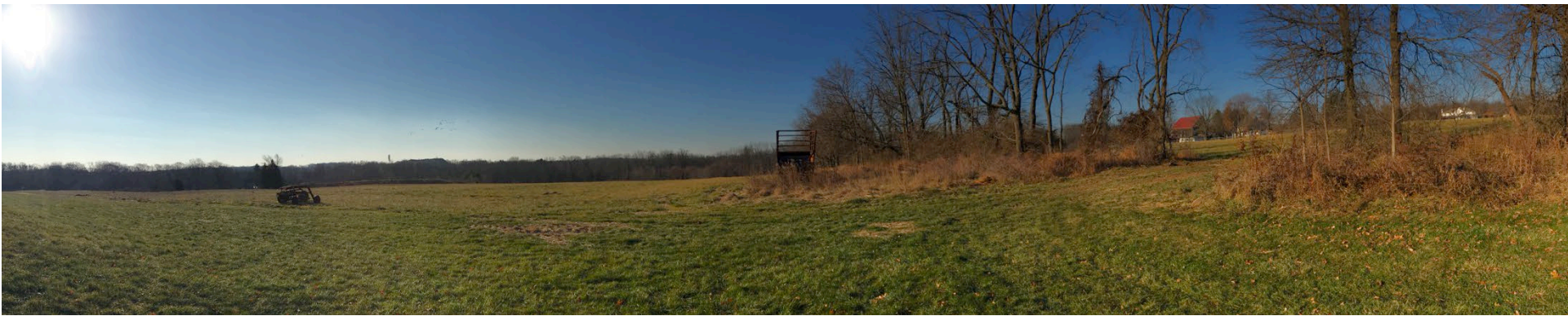
# OPEN SPACE SIGNAGE



- Angry Bird Signs- 8 Naturalized Detention Basin
- Large Composite Signs- Mill Creek Preserve, Weisel Preserve and 10 Folly Road
- Metal Signs- 24 locations



# Application to PECO Green Region for Improvements to the Weisel Preserve



# Review of Development Plans

- Cardamone
- Laurel Gardens
- Emerson Farms
- McNany
- Grove Valley Farms

