

## **Salford Township Open Space Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**December 15, 2009**

#### **Location: Salford Township Building**

**Attendees:** Larry Anderson, Robert Marcus, John Slavek, Charlie Loughery, John Feldi, Melody Leithold, Adrian Scioli and Barbara McMonagle.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.**

#### **Active Properties:**

**Halteman-Clemens-Schultz Properties** – 59± acre property. No change. We are waiting to hear from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) regarding our grant application to cover 50% of the cost of purchasing conservation and trail easements on these properties. Their announcement should be later this year due to the delay in the approval of the state budget.

**Croll Property** - 24± acre property. Funding from the Montgomery County Open Space Program, Round 2 is still not available. We are looking into alternative ways such as an Open Space Referendum to purchase this property (see below).

**Other Properties** - Anyone interested in preserving their property is encouraged to contact any Open Space member for more information.

#### **Other Business:**

**Growing Greener Planning Concepts** – Since the Community Assessment of our Zoning Ordinances was completed by Natural Lands Trust we are looking into this land preservation method further. Without reducing the number of homes which could be built on a property, at least 50% open space can be permanently protected in the development process at **no cost** to the township. The Open Space Committee supports the idea. The Planning Commission is currently discussing if the Growing Greener planning concepts will benefit us in addition to current ordinances.

**Montgomery County Open Space Program** - Funding under Round 2 of the Montgomery County Open Space Program is still awaiting approval by the County Commissioners.

**Open Space Referendum** – An Open Space Referendum is a ballot question asking residents if they would support borrowing money for Open Space to be used for a future township park, farmland preservation or for the protection of natural resources. A ballot question would gauge whether or not residents would support this additional way of funding open space projects.

**PA Recreational Use of Land & Water Act** – limits the legal liability of landowners who open their land to the public at no charge.

**Next Meeting – January 19, 2010**

**Meeting was adjourned 10:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McMonagle