

SALFORD TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2010

7:15 p.m.

Location: Salford Township Building

Committee attendees: George Di Domizio, Chair, Barbara McMonagle, Harris Mosher, John Feldi,

Supervisor attendees: None

Other attendees: Frank Jarrett, Chair of the Park and Recreation Board

1. Organizational issues: We firmed up the agreement to defer appointing a secretary. George will prepare minutes of the meetings, email them to members, the Park Board members, the Supervisors, Karen, so she can have them posted on the Township Website.
2. Halteman-Clemens-Schultz Properties. After hearing a report from Barbara McMonagle about the details of the grant rejection from DCNR, we agreed that there was not enough promise of getting a 2010 grant from the DCNR to justify the cost and effort to prepare a new proposal to meet the 4/21/10 deadline for grant submission. We also agreed to inform the property owners about the decision. Barbara McMonagle agreed to draft a letter to the property owners for Tom Neff's signature.
3. Croll Property. We learned that the Croll Property has been listed for sale with a real estate firm at a cost of \$699,999. This is below the appraised price of \$1.2 million. The Committee is still interested in pursuing the property, and will develop a plan for a possible installment purchase over a 5 year period. Before any funds are expended or formal action taken, the Committee will present a game plan to the BOS for their input.
4. Referendum to generate revenue for open space. There was a discussion on the promise of a referendum to create a flow of revenue that would be used to acquire open space and to provide funds for proper maintenance of the acquired properties. The general plan is to get information from neighboring municipalities that used a referendum to generate revenue before developing a plan to present to the BOS for input. Barbara McMonagle shared information from the Heritage Conservancy that listed the various municipalities that passed referendums. This will be circulated to the committee members as a start of the research effort.
5. Joint Park Board Meeting. Barbara McMonagle and George gave an update on the 2/23/10 meeting of the Park Boards of various municipalities that dealt with trail development and its impact on open space funding. The meeting underscored the importance of trails for open space funding, and identified a few opportunities for cooperation between Salford and Marlborough that will be discussed in upcoming meetings.
6. Park Board and Open Space Committee cooperation. There was some discussion about the value of the Park Board and the Open Space Committee to work together and have periodic joint meetings. There was a general agreement that the main role of the Open Space Committee is to acquire properties, and the main role of the Park Board to maintain the acquired properties.
7. Farmland preservation. Harris Mosher gave an update on the county outlook for farmland preservation funding.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2010

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by: George Di Domizio