

SALFORD TOWNSHIP
JOINT MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE AND THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
Meeting Minutes
5/18/10
7:15 p.m.

Location: Salford Township Building

Open Space Committee attendees: George Di Domizio, Chair, Barbara McMonagle, Harris Mosher, Melody Leithold,
Park and Recreation Board attendees: None
Finance Group attendee: Jim Styer
Supervisor attendee: Robert Marcus
Other attendees: None

Mission of the joint meeting:

- From the Open Space Committee perspective: Develop and pursue a plan for strategic acquisitions that are in line with the current realities of available properties and funding.
- From the Park and Recreation Board perspective: Focus on appropriate maintenance and development of acquired properties consistent with the needs of passive and active recreation.
- From the Finance perspective: Take an aerial view of plans for acquisition and development that balances longer term needs of residents and sources of funding.

Fifth annual Open Space Workshop and Dinner on May 27:

Barb McMonagle has registered for the free event and will represent Salford Township. She'll be able to present a report at the 6/15 meeting of the Open Space Committee.

Growing Greener Campaign:

Barbara McMonagle has signed on as a supporter of the Growing Greener effort to encourage a renewal of Growing Greener at the state level with an investment of \$200 million annually. Members of the Open Space Committee are encouraged to join Barbara as personal supporters of the effort by emailing the executive director, Andrew Heath at ah Heath@renewgrowinggreener.org. At our next meeting on 6/15, we will firm up a proposal for Salford Township to put its official support behind the effort.

Update on Croll Property:

The group discussed the latest e-mail thoughts from member Charles Loughery about a plan to sub-divide the property into two or three parcels to make it more attractive for the township to acquire the property. The viability of this approach has not been discussed yet with the Board of Supervisors or the Croll family. Barbara McMonagle has been monitoring activity for the parcel. Robert Marcus suggested that the committee open a dialogue with the family that could lead to a modest investment in a "right of first refusal" for the property. Jim Styer was asked to think about the amount of money the township could invest in such a document. The matter will be on the agenda for the 6/15 meeting.

Inventory of preserved properties:

George Di Domizio said he is working on an Excel spreadsheet to capture important details on the list of preserved properties that are listed in the 2005 Open Space Plan. Among the new information items will be acquisition costs, share of cost paid by Salford, current ownership, estimated value of the properties, etc.

List of properties under consideration for purchase or easements:

Barbara McMonagle will lead the effort to develop an Excel file to capture the details on parcels under active consideration for easements or outright purchase. Members of the Open Space Committee who have had contact with parcel owners are asked to forward information to Barbara so she can update the file.

Review of funding sources:

At the earlier suggestion of member John Feldi, the Open Space Committee will develop a list of funding sources that would include the names and contact information that has been developed over the years. Barbara McMonagle, who has the most information on contacts, will lead the effort to capture the relevant information in an Excel file.

Newsletter opportunities:

The plan for an advertiser paid township newsletter has several opportunities for the Open Space Committee. One is to include a questionnaire in the newsletter that residents can use to tell us about their current interest and use of passive and active recreation facilities in the township. Another is to open the door for greater participation of residents in identifying parcels for open space protection. The text for the Open Space Committee profile for the newsletter is attached.

Mini-Grant opportunity:

Barbara McMonagle brought a non-agenda item to the attention of the committee. It is an opportunity for Salford to apply for a \$10,000 matching grant from the Schuylkill Highlands for a project that would fit into the guidelines provided. After some discussion, it was decided to make an effort to submit an application before the deadline of 5/27. Robert Marcus volunteered draft a proposal, then have Melody Leithold review the draft for technical accuracy, then have Barbara McMonagle present the plan at the 5/19 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, June 15 at 7:15 at the township building. An agenda will be distributed to members on or before Friday, June 11. Members of the Park and Recreation Board and the Finance Committee will be invited.

Prepared by: George Di Domizio