

Salford Township Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2009

Location: Salford Township Building

Attendees: Larry Anderson, John Feldi 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 will be made in the fall or later 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 to purchase this property.

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. Due to the current economic climate, state and county funding for open space properties has decreased. A ballot question would gauge whether or not residents would support this additional way of funding open space projects. We are discussing the requirements of doing this at the spring election.

Next Meeting – November 17, 2009

Meeting was adjourned 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McMonagle