

## **Salford Township Open Space Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**September 15, 2009**

**Location: Salford Township Building**

**Attendees:** Larry Anderson, Melody Leithold and Barbara McMonagle

**Others:** John Croll, Don Croll, Mary Ann Himmelsbach

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

#### **Active Properties:**

**Haltman-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. The grant is very competitive.

**Croll Property** - 24± acre property. Funding from the Montgomery County Open Space Program, Round 2 is currently 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:**

**Community Assessment by Natural Lands Trust** – Since our meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Open Space Committee and Ann Hutchinson from Natural Lands Trust to discuss the Natural Lands Trust (NLT) Community Assessment report, the Open Space Committee agreed we should look 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.

**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. As great properties present themselves, they could be purchased by Salford Township. A ballot question would gauge whether or not residents would support this additional way of funding open space projects. We are looking into doing this at the spring election.

**Next Meeting – October 20, 2009**

**Meeting was adjourned 9:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McMonagle