

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 7, 2013 MEETING REPORT

Attendees: Michael Del Rossi Janet Ebert Debbie Reardon Lois Saunders
Judy Lizza, interim township manager

Minutes for the January 2013 meeting were deferred to the March 14 meeting.

Debbie Reardon has met with Shelia Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy to discuss applying for a DCNR grant for a feasibility study for trails in the township. Such a grant would require considerable public participation and a 50 – 50 match. The application could stress connectivity and linkage to other trail plans and the goals of the Open Space plan regarding trails. The OS Comm. would outsource writing the grant application and would need to seek other funding for the 50 – 50 match, including possible support from the BOS.

The dense autumn olive on the township portion of the Harvey Run trail has been cut but not removed. The OS Comm. needs to inspect the site and develop some management options that take into account the natural features, esthetics, and community involvement.

Delaware County has applied for a grant to study the Brandywine Battlefield near the Route 202 corridor which could help connect the township to the overall range of the battle.

The fee-in-lieu rate was discussed. Judy Lizza is researching the rate in other townships, and will pass on her findings to the OS Comm. She says that the fee schedule can be changed by resolution, and some townships review their fee schedules yearly. The OS Comm needs to review and possibly strengthen the recreation component of the Open Space Plan so that it supports and directs the fee-in-lieu process.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ebert

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE JANUARY 10, 2013 MEETING REPORT

Attendees: Michael Del Rossi Janet Ebert Alan Horowitz David Poston
Debbie Reardon Lois Saunders Keith Kleaver, BOS liaison
Judy Lizza, interim township manager

Minutes for the November 2012 meeting were read and approved.

Reorganization for 2013: Chairman - Debbie Reardon, Vice-chairman – David Poston,
Recording secretary – Janet Ebert, Keeper of financial records – Lois Saunders

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byways: Debbie Reardon and Kathleen Goodier are the township representatives to the committee, which is working with a planning group. Their results might be incorporated into the township comprehensive plan.

Brandywine Battlefield State Park: Debbie Reardon and David Poston are the township representatives to the task force, which is trying to write a strategic plan. Facilities need to be upgraded, and new leadership is needed for new ideas, fund-raising, and increasing community support.

Harvey Run Trail: Chadds Ford Tree Service has begun clearing the township portion of the trail. The permit for construction of two bridges has been received, but forms must be signed by the project manager (township engineer) before the permit is valid. The BOS approved building the bridges by eagle scouts, and there should be several candidates that are eager to take on the project. A township resident is interested in creating a memorial of trees along the trail for the Newtown Connecticut tragedy. The OS Comm. had questions about who would design and control the memorial.

Fee-in-lieu: Currently the township rate is low, and the BOS is researching the rate in surrounding townships, and may increase the rate. The township does not have a strong recreation and trails component in its open space plan to support the fee-in-lieu, and the OS Comm. will study more detailed plans from other townships so they can upgrade and strengthen Chadds Ford's plan.

The BOS wants to raise the profile of the Open Space Comm., possibly by an art + environment social event with the Brandywine Conservancy. Once completed, the Harvey Run Trail needs to be publicized to generate community interest and involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ebert