

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MARCH 14, 2013 MEETING REPORT

Attendees: Michael Del Rossi Janet Ebert Debbie Reardon David Poston
Lois Saunders Judy Lizza, interim township manager
Bill Mock, Planning Commission Kathryn Labrum, Solicitor
Keith Kleaver, BOS liaison

The fee-in-lieu was the main topic of discussion. Developers are required to provide land to meet the demand for services created by their developments, but they have the option of paying a fee-in-lieu. Chadds Ford Township's fee-in-lieu rate is much lower than surrounding townships and needs to be updated. Recommendations for changing the rate must come to the BOS from the Planning Commission, with input from the OS Comm. The process should promote communication and cooperation between the two committees. Fee-in-lieu can be used to purchase land, buy recreational equipment for new parks, or make improvements to existing parks, but it can not be used for maintenance of existing parks. Since trails are the top recreational priority in the township, fee-in-lieu funds could be used for feasibility studies and planning for trails. With the assistance of the Brandywine Conservancy, the OS Comm. is applying for a DCNR grant to do feasibility studies. There is now approximately \$ 26,000. in the fee-in-lieu fund, and although legally the funds must be spent within three years of payment, Kathryn Labrum said that this time limit has not been strictly observed by developers. She suggested that the fee-in-lieu language should include a waiver of time limits, interest on the payment, and dedication to a specific project. Projects can progress very slowly, especially if they will be partly funded by grants.

The fee-in-lieu has different residential and commercial rate structures. The OS Comm will look at the rate structures of other townships from the information gathered by Judy Lizza and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission in a timely manner. They will also provide the Planning Commission with a wish-list time line of trail projects that fee-in-lieu could be used for.

In old business, minutes for the January and February meetings were corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ebert

*Approved 4-11-13
DyReardon*