FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP
October 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Township Supervisor Dennis Klusaritz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance were Supervisor Dennis Klusaritz, Supervisor RJ Heintzelman, Township Manager Randy Cope, Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz, and members Heather Skorinko, Mark Yatcilla, Marlene Stofflet, Paul Semmel, Bob Korp, and Susan Williams. Also in attendance was guest Stacey Yoder, AICP Community Planner at Gilmore & Associates, Inc. Not in attendance was Supervisor Al Geosits.

Discussion

A motion was made by Bob Korp, seconded by Paul Semmel, to approve the July 11, 2024 Farmland Preservation/Open Space Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Johnson ASA Removal Update

Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz informed the committee that the township received written notification from J. Johnson that he would like to remove his 83.95-acre property located at 5150 Hoffmansville Road from the townships Agricultural Security Area (ASA).

New ASA Applications:

Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz gave committee members the following update:

1. Added: B. Yenser during the 10/7 Board of Supervisors meeting for the property located at 2646 High Hill Rd consisting of 40.22 acres.
2. Announced: R. Schmidt during the 9/9 Board of Supervisors meeting for the property located at 2831 Woodbine St. consisting of 2.4 acres.
3. Whitehall Announced: R. Johnson during the 9/9 Board of Supervisors meeting for the property located at 4760 Robin St. consisting of 1.8 acres.
4. Whitehall Announced: H. Skorinko during the 9/9 Board of Supervisors meeting for the property located at 5439 Roosevelt St. consisting of 17.97 acres.

2025 Projected Preservation:

Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz gave committee members an overview of the townships current preserved properties as well as a future outlook of properties that have applied for preservation. Bob Korp suggested that the township look at three options including financing, borrowing funds from the General Fund, and what it would look like if we

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continued down the path of preservation with our current funding source. Susan Williams suggested that the township look to acquire additional open space near the Trexler Game preserve in the future. Dennis Klusaritz suggested that the board drive by all properties who have applied for preservation to become more familiar with the location of each property to help create a priority list. Randy Cope suggested that staff create a map for each parcel that has applied for preservation and add property details to the maps to present to all board members.

Open Space Action Plan:
Director of Grants, Preservation and Trails Mike Kukitz gave a brief overview of the Open Space Action Plan. Stacey Yoder from Gilmore & Associates, Inc., reviewed the project timeline and the scope of work to include attending the Tree Lighting event to speak with residents, data collection and analysis, key person interviews, mapping, best practices and possible draft referendum language, if deemed necessary. The Open Space Action Plan is scheduled to be completed by August 2025. Dennis Klusaritz asked that everyone on the committee email names to Randy Cope for potential key person interviews. Randy Cope stated that the committee should try to recommend people who represent a large portion of the community including the school district, youth groups, farmers, etc. Bob Korp suggested that we identify properties that the township may want to purchase for community needs (right of first refusal) and also would like to look into how we can prioritize spending. RJ Heintzelman suggested looking into Lancaster County's Preservation efforts as a possible best practice to learn from.

The next Farmland Preservation/Open Space Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 13 2024, at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn by Marlene Stofflet, seconded by Mark Yatcilla. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:01 PM
Mike Kukitz
Director of Grants, Preservation, & Trails

*This meeting was held at the Neffs Volunteer Fire Company - 3755 Park Ave, Neffs, PA 18065

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