

West Brandywine Township
Open Space Review Board
Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2009

6:57 pm John Cassels called the meeting to order.

In Attendance:

John Cassels	Anita Ferenz	Steven Jakatt
Joseph Arvay	Bob Schini	

Absent:

Jeff Chalfant	John Conti	Kim Hoopes
Chuck Dobson		

Public Present: Ed Barr was in attendance

Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

May 28, 2009 – Steve Jakatt motioned to accept the minutes of May 28, 2009. Joseph Arvay seconded the motion. All members in attendance at the May meeting voted in favor of the motion to accept the minutes.

Old Business:

- 1) Icedale Meadows: Will contact Boy Scouts to see if interested in doing project to build a sign. Inquire with PennDOT who does the milling of Township roads, to see if stone is available for parking area.
- 2) Chase Tract: Will come off the table. Does not want to move forward after receipt of the appraisal. Can come back at a later date.
- 3) Baldwin: Has received the appraisal and is still reviewing. Will contact the Township to discuss.
- 4) Marie Property: The OSRB motioned to recommend to the BoS to provide the cost of \$22,100.00 needed to secure the Marie property. The BoS did approve at their June 18th meeting.
- 5) Lindborg: The BoS did approve at their June 18th meeting to obtain an appraisal.
- 6) Eck Property: There has been no response from Dr. Eck.

New Business

General Discussion by OSRB (as needed):

John Cassels stated that he is in the process of working with David Harper on the priorities plan originally starting at French and Pickering and then got expanded. DCNR wanted to see more so it expanded all the way up to the Schuylkill and all the way down to the upper East branch of the Brandywine. It includes Culbertson, Indian Run and Dr. Eck's property, which scored well.

We are in receipt of a letter from the County of Chester about the Ag Program. They will have someone come in if we want. It was discussed about properties in the Township regarding Ag security and trying to get them into the program. Will need open space funds, on donations to match what the County does. The only requirement is that the land abuts some protective lands – there are a number of properties which abut the County park, which might qualify. It is dependent upon soil types, some mass of interested parties, and the means of matching funds

unless the land is donated. These are large parcels, which go from Cedar Knoll to Wagontown Road – there are 4 or 5 parcels on the western side of the road. The deadline is July 1, 2009. Regarding the railroad bed, there are a number of trail programs in the works in the County. There was discussion of several parcels. In order to get this through the County, the Supervisors would need to be in agreement. Told to write a letter to the County Commissioners, try to get on the agenda, and present your case. The property is County owned from Cedar Knoll Road to Wagontown Road. The property (railroad bed) is projected to be a trail called The Brandywine Hibernia Trail which continues up into Honey Brook, which is part of a larger network the County has got on the books as planned with the status “in the feasibility study”.

Ed Barr asked if the Board was aware of the Hibernia Trail Task Force that was in existence 15 years ago (he was on the task force), which spent 2 years investigating this issue. There is a report, evaluating other trails, and who owned what properties. There was opposition then. John Cassels stated it is in our Comp plan and all responses from a survey indicate that trails are the highest desired recreation category. It is a recommendation in our Comp Plan and a goal in our Open Space Priorities Plan. The trail in question starts in Coatesville, runs into Hibernia Park, maintained by the Park, and runs up to Icedale. The trail itself is not maintained beyond Hibernia, however, the gravel railroad bed remains intact.

Ed Barr stated (for the record) that one of his concerns is that he has a problem with people riding four wheelers and motorcycles, riding racing bikes, not just recreational four wheelers. These riders seem to be from outside the Township. They are riding up and down the power lines on the other side of the creek, the south side of the creek, up the hill and who knows what erosion they are causing and what they are ruining. There are trails that people are four wheeling – which needs to be addressed as the trails progress. As we work towards opening this up more, what is going to be to stop this from increasing? That was a factor with the Hibernia Trail Task Force and the County, what resources they had to enforcing the fact that it just didn't become a four wheeler race track.

Next meeting – Thursday, July 23, 2009 @ 6:45 pm.

Steve Jakatt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anita Ferenz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.