

OSC minutes 2-23-26

Members present: John K, Bill H., Michele S., Pat Mc.

1. Reorganization: We need to find folks who want to preserve their land. Want to find out how the township can preserve land independent of the county. People who have tried to go through the county do not qualify. Mostly thinking about environmental issues. The county demands that the public have access to environmentally sensitive land, but the township would not. Ryan Something replaced Maria Bentzoni. Motion for Pat to be chair, Bill to be vice-chair, Michele secretary. 4 ays

2. MJWA stream improvement project funding: Meadows of Martin's Creek suffered damage in the 2023 flood. The PA Fish and Boat Commission also helps out communities with watershed projects. Pat has diagrams to help banks of the creek in the Meadows. There are several banks that have eroded and need to be stabilized, as well as fallen trees. Need to get the stream back to its original channel. The Fish and Boat Commission gave us a schematic for improvements. The railroad is not cooperating, so we will eliminate the portion that is next to their tracks. We need a grant from DCNR, a matching grant, that would involve stream restoration, tree removal, and tree plantings. Is a 50,000\$ grant. We would have to come up with \$20,000. Twp will provide workers and machines. Need permission from one landowner, but it is a 15-year agreement. What if we pair project down and get rid of that final stage? They (Fish Commission) will apply for a grant from Trout Unlimited. \$25,000 with a smaller match. If we get this, the Twp. Would be responsible for around \$6,000. Motion made for using matching funds from the Open Space to get the grant from MJWA and Fish Commission. 4 ays.

3. Farming the Meadows Park: Pat went to a supervisor's meeting to discuss. Keifer wants a farmer to put in a hay crop. Pat stuck up for the Open Space committee during the meeting. What about sludge? The solicitor said Twp. could prohibit sludge. We got money from DCNR, County Park, and our own funds. Not sure if farming it is even legal. Lower meadow has undesirable plants, but upper meadow is an ecosystem. The final result is that Megan will put out feelers to see if there is any farmer who may want to farm there. May be a moot point because it will be hard to find a farmer who wants to farm in the manner it needs to be farmed. Pat called the county woman who is in charge of parks to see if there is any meadow rehabilitation money and experts to advise about our meadow. She will look into it. Pat will call her again.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31