

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
July 11, 2006

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Open Space Committee was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Lapp at 7:31 p.m. Also present: Open Space Committee members Donna DiMella, Andrew Dinsmore, Charles Moyer, Joe Salvatore, Sandy Williamson and Jeanne Scanlon; and one couple who reside in the township.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 6, 2006 regularly scheduled Open Space Committee meeting were reviewed and approved with one change regarding the length of newly appointed Andrew Dinsmore's term.

Appointments:

A couple from the area near the Forest Road park inquired about preserving some of their property through the open space program and possibly selling the property to the township later on. They said there may be some historic interest due to the age of the house. The property is also contiguous with the land preserved for the park. The committee instructed the couple about the program and suggested they complete an application as a first step.

Old Business:

Jeff updated members on some recent preservation activity in the township: Agreements had been reached on three properties that fit one or more of the township's open space strategy criteria, including conserving a prime wooded lot.

The committee discussed the importance of doing a press release when impressive open space preservation agreements have been finalized.

New Business:

Following a directive by the Supervisors, the committee discussed the concept of borrowing to purchase properties in fee simple or to purchase development rights. Charlie agreed to draft a rationale with sidebars for further discussion by the committee and presentation to the Supervisors.

Regarding the ongoing work by the committee to rewrite the Open Space Plan, Jeff proposed an Executive Session of the Open Space Committee to be held on September 12, 2006 to wrap up the effort. Jeff pointed out to members that since opportunities for agricultural preservation are diminishing, the work remaining will mostly be focused on preserving the watershed and natural resources.

It was agreed by the committee that all work is impeded by not having updated maps.

Jeff said the landowner's forum that had been discussed for the fall will be pushed to early 2007 instead.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.