

West Rockhill Township
Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2016

Call to Order:

The March 17, 2016, Conservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at the West Rockhill Township municipal building.

Elected Officials:

*Absent

Supervisors: Donald Duvall
Jay Keyser*
James Miller*

Appointed Officials: Committee members

Elizabeth (Betsy) Branson
Vera Cole
David Collingwood
Karina Rilling
Michael Schrameyer

Township Manager: Greg Lippincott

Visitors Registered: Pamela West

Conservation Committee Activity:

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 21, 2016, meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

1. Database Updates –all members agreed that Michael is the designated person to update and edit all entries. Still to be determined is how best to store the Database. The site must be secure but accessible when information needs to be obtained. Suggestions were Dropbox or a secure Google site. Judy Decker stores a copy of the current version on her official computer.
2. Logo- the newly designed Conservation Committee logos will be presented at the May meeting.
3. Monitoring of conserved properties- conserved properties must be managed and monitored. It was suggested that each property be inspected annually. The CC members felt that this job was outside their scope of responsibilities as volunteers. The monitoring issue remained unresolved but also remained a Township responsibility.
Any structures are usually outside of the conserved acreage so do not need monitoring.
4. Maintenance of Open Space- a need exists for maintaining open space acquisitions including structures (5 Township owned dwellings are on conserved acreage). The Pennsylvania state legislature's HB #1523 allows the use of open space funds for physical structures and trails.

After incisive deliberation and discussion, the CC decided not to recommend any money for structure maintenance *at this time*. This discussion will continue at the May meeting where a position paper will be presented.

5. Newsletter property scorecard- almost all previous newsletters have a complete list of conserved properties, i.e. our Scorecard. Since an issue arose regarding how to feature the 'conservator' of a property once it has changed ownership, the CC decided to publish a Township map showing all preserved properties without any owner's name. Instead, each property will list the conserved acreage.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

Next regularly scheduled meeting – Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM