

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Open Space Review Board came to order at 5:30 P.M. Due to anticipated higher than usual audience turnout, the meeting was held at General Wayne Elementary School. The following members were present: Ted Leisenring; Brook Gardner; Jeff Vincent; Mimi Quinn-Johnson; Mike Devine; Robert Kacergis; and Erik Hetzel. Mary Hundt was present as Township staff liaison.

Minutes

Mimi moved to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2021 meeting; Jeff seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously, 7-0.

Financial Review

Mike reported on the Open Space Fund, noting that \$450,000 was used to assist in the purchase of the 12-acre addition to Kirkwood Preserve. Ted mentioned that the fund continues to grow with revenues collected through the Earned Income Tax.

New Business

314 South Valley Road - This 14.9-acre property was recently sold and is the subject of a sketch plan that would retain the existing home and subdivide the remaining land into 5 additional lots. There is considerable community interest in the outcome of this proceeding. The OSRB expressed interest in pursuing a possible open space opportunity here. The Fox Hollow Trail is located nearby (to the north). There was some discussion about connecting 314 South Valley Road and the Fox Hollow Trail via pedestrian trails along South Valley Road. This would require obtaining permission from property owners to allow a trail easement along their South Valley Road frontage. The OSRB feels that this warrants a conversation with the Planning Commission.

Other Business

In light of the large public attendance of this meeting, Ted suggested that we review how the OSRB works alongside the Planning Commission and with other organizations (i.e., Willistown Conservation Trust) to advise the Board of Supervisors on open space topics facing the Township. Erik and Mare explained the powers and duties of the OSRB as outlined in the Township code. Ted led an open and engaging discussion with the residents in attendance about how the various groups work together to make open space projects happen.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Erik Hetzel, OSRB Secretary