



WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

August 25

7:00 pm

Attendance:

Name	Board/Committee
Jordan Bires	Open Space
Fran McKee	Open Space
Ruth Schemm	Open Space – Parks & Rec
Ivy Ross	Open Space – EAC
Kathy Newcomb	Open Space
Timothy Tieperman	Township Manager

1. Call to Order: 7:00 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment – None

4. Old Business

- a. None

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of the Heritage Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust proposals to provide consultant services for Open Space projects: Ivy Ross noted that the Heritage Conservancy had set a cap of \$10,000 on expenditures for the township without prior approval. Overall, the Task Force felt that the Natural Lands Trust showed more of a work plan while the Heritage Conservancy's proposal was more free and looking for direction from the Township to develop their work plan. Tim Tieperman said that he had spoken with Stephanie Mason, the Doylestown Township manager. Doylestown had been using the Heritage Conservancy in connection with their historic preservation efforts and has recently brought the Heritage Conservancy on board to work with their Bike and Hike Committee. She had said that she found that work of the Heritage Conservancy to be very professional. Two other factors in favor of the Heritage Conservancy is that their offices are nearby, while the Natural Lands Trust is in Delaware County and the fact that the Heritage Conservancy employs some former employees of the Bucks County Planning Commission. Factors in favor of the Natural Lands Trust is that they have a much longer history and have been very successful in obtaining grants. After a good deal of discussion, the consensus was that since both proposals were initial drafts and were difficult to compare side by side, Tim Tieperman would write to each party asking for revised proposals focusing on the following areas:
- i. Providing services for writing grants and past success rates in obtaining grants. Grant applications may be for preservation of open space by land acquisition, parks, trails, and recreation development, and historical preservation. Typical costs for each type of grant application should be provided.

- ii. Providing assistance in evaluating and recommending parcels for acquisitions and potential grant sources
- iii. Assisting the Township in negotiating with property owners.
- iv. Total estimated cost to attend a typical 2-hour meeting including a 15-minute presentation on various open space issues including travel and meeting preparation time.

A draft of the letter s to the Heritage Conservancy and the Natural Lands Trust will be forwarded to the members of the Open Space Task Force for comment before being mailed.

- b. Discussion and recommendation on additional factors to be considered for prioritizing open space acquisitions: Ruth Schemm will be coordinating with the Parks and Rec Board later this week to obtain their input on factors that should be considered in prioritizing parcels for open space acquisition. Coordination will also be done with the Bike and Hike Commission to get their input. This information will be relayed to Fred Suffian for incorporation into the GIS mapping for possible presentation to the Board of Supervisors on September 9.
- c. Status of Environmental Finance Center projects:

6. Other Business

- a. None

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes for May 14, 2014 were approved.

8. Posting of Minutes

- a. The minutes for July 9, 2014 were posted.

9. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

10. Next Meeting – September 10 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Roy W. Rieder, P.E.
Director of Planning and Special Projects