

# WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

February 10, 2021 Minutes

- **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Ivy Ross, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03. Present at the Zoom meeting were Ivy Ross, Chairperson; Sharon Kaszan, Vice Chair; Kathy Newcomb, Secretary and Historic Commission Liaison; Barbara Brown, Rick Weiss, Park and Rec Liaison; Vince Evans, Planning Commission Liaison; Ruth Schemm, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Fred Gaines, Board of Supervisors. There was one member of the public, Guy Powell.

Ms. Ross led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Public Comment:** None.

- **Business:**

- a. **No - Mow Open Space Areas**

The need for Open Space to be mowed or not was discussed. Benefits to not mowing include habitat creation and cost reduction. It was agreed a plan for mowing be drawn up and presented to the BOS for approval, then submitted to Public Works for implementation.

- b. **ATV's and Snowmobiles on Open Space Land and Basins.**

ATVs and snowmobiles are detrimental to open space. Ways to discourage their use were discussed. Rick Weiss will look at Weisel Preserve to help determine how to discourage off road activity there.

- c. **Dark Skies Initiative at IPW, Discussion Regarding Extending to Lions Pride Park.**

Creating a Greenway that would include Lion's Pride Park and Upper and Lower Nike Parks was discussed. This would include limiting any lighting in the area to Dawn to Dusk. This area is a migratory path for birds which should be preserved.

- d. **Trees From PHS at Weisel Preserve.**

15 trees are to be planted at Weisel Preserve. An additional 4 trees will be planted at Mary Barness Pool. The township will be notified about a Peco grant in about a month. This would provide for 28-30 large trees and 30 shrubs to be planted along the trail through Weisel Preserve.

- e. **Pollinator Garden at Weisel Preserve.**

Eric Brayler will be creating this garden as part of his Eagle Scout project. There is a grant available for this too, to be matched by the Scout. Barbara Brown will facilitate selection of native plants for the project.

- f. **Possible Community Garden on Township Open Space**

A freshman high school student approached the township about creating a community garden on some Open Space. He has successfully done this in Horsham. It was decided to wait and see what his proposal is.

- g. **Laurel Gardens Development Plan**

Vince Evans reported on the preliminary plans which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at their February 18 meeting. This will be a Conservation Residential Development. Vince reported that about 75% of the land (18 acres) would be preserved. Ivy Ross expressed the desirability of this open space to be contiguous with the Pileggi open space. This would enable creating one conservation easement with Natural Lands, which would save the township about \$30,000.

- h. **McNaney Property Update**

A third plan has been submitted which will include restoring the historic house on the property

and selling it as a private residence. Kudos to the Ad Hoc committee that worked with the owner and developer to save this significant house. The current plan has the houses spaced better and it was reported that they will be architecturally appropriate to go with the historic house.

**i. Master Plan Update with Natural Lands and Combined Meeting Discussion**

Ivy reviewed the responses to the Natural Lands questionnaire.

**j. Rt. 202 to Bradford Dam Connector Trail- Lower State Rd to Bellflower Blvd. Grant.**

Ivy is putting in a grant for segment C of the trail. This will include along Lower State and Pickertown roads, on the Mill Creek Preserve and to Bellflower Blvd. DCNR would provide 50% of the funding.

**k. Willow Knoll Playground Grant**

This is a grant through HUD. It would include a challenge course and 2 age appropriate play grounds.

**l) Open Space Sign Placement**

Ivy presented a Power Point showing the placement of signage on Open Space parcels. The placements were agreed upon by all members.

- **Adjournment.** Ms Kaszon moved to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Vince Evans seconded and the motion passed without an objection being heard.