

MINUTES
Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee
Thursday, April 13, 2023

Attendance

Peter Mattes, Chair
David Poston, Vice Chair
Kathleen Goodier, Secretary
Helene Badeau
Rob King
Mike Pessagno
Sarah Sharp
Lois Saunders, ad hoc
Emily Pisano, Assistant Township Manager

Regrets: Noelle Barbone, Supervisor Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm.

Announcements – None

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the March 9, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mike Pessagno, seconded by David Poston.

Routine Business/Reports

Harvey Run Trail Report – Emily noted that the trail and playground have been very busy. Trail maintenance was discussed. Peter wants to look for trends in the reports. Emily will investigate.

Easter Egg Hunt – large turnout, lots of positive feedback. Consider doing in 2024.

- Bunny did a great job handing out crayons and coloring pages.
- Rain Date was used and it was a bit cold but did not seem to adversely affect turnout.
- People did bring their own baskets.
- We might have had too many eggs.

Storytime – After a successful 2022 summer all were in favor of continuing the initiative in 2023.

- Possible dates: 6/21/23 – 8/23/23 based on USFSD calendar
- Readers from 2022 were willing to do it again in 2023
- Emily will reach out to Rachel Kohl Library for a book list for the BOS to review
- Mike will give Emily a copy of the 2022 flyer to rework for 2023

Mother Archie's Cleanup – Scheduled for Saturday, April 15 from 9am – 11am. Rain date 4/22

- Registrations full after referrals from Chadds Ford Residents Association
- Cleaning supplies will be provided
- Holding off cleaning headstones due to concern about further damage

New/Old Business/Reports

New Business

Ideas for Future Events at Playground – Events would promote Harvey Run Trail and perhaps other local sites.

- Pollinator garden behind the playground flooded. Perhaps replant appropriately
- Composting Informational Session
- Beekeeper Talk – honey tasting
- Pumpkin decorating could tie in with CFHS Pumpkin Carve
- Sand Carving was done at CFHS – reach out for possible collaboration
- Reach out to local museums and other educational centers to offer area for appropriate programs. Might coordinate to get access to sites.
- Nature/History/Art oriented talks
- “Free Range” Art, or plein air – opportunity to partner with Brandywine River Museum of Art or land trusts. If partnering, pre-registration would probably be helpful
- Events could fall of days school is not in session
- How many events are the BOS interested in having?
- Helene offered to make some calls about partnership opportunities

Renaming of Former Girl Scout Camp, Sunset Hill – Rob proposed “Sunset Hill Preserve.” The property was aptly named Sunset Hill and some residents remember camping there when it was Camp Sunset Hill. Peter wondered if CFHS would have any ideas.

Tree Inventory Assessment/Determination for Future Plantings – Recommend using natives except for Norway Spruce in place of native Hemlock which suffers from wooly adelgid

- Sunset Hill – Rob reported removing more dead/diseased ash trees
- Brandywine Battlefield Park needs trees after ash tree removal
- Rob is working with Emily on a list of appropriate trees – include Rover Birch, Weeping Willow and Eastern Red Cedar
- Area by sewer and playground could use more trees
- Painter's Folly might also benefit from planting

Possible Addition of August and December OSC Meetings – The OSC has seen an increase in members and duties. Suggested adding August to the calendar to keep momentum.

Old Business

Signage Located at Township Open Space and Open Space Logo

- Consider using outline of the Township to start
- Once logo is decided the shape of the sign can be determined
- A site can have a larger sign with smaller signs throughout as needed. Each CFT OS site should be consistent.
- Need to inventory existing signs with pictures and their condition and have a replacement plan
- Peter asks that each member come with 1-3 logo ideas before the next meeting

Update on Progress at Former Sunset Hill Property

- New gate has been installed
- BOS authorized two days of work for Chadds Ford Tree Service to remove trees and invasives. Rob removed 50 dead trees in that time. Might need two more days. Rob would like to remove invasives.
- Parking pad is slippery. Might need additional fencing. Cleared out dirt mounds.
- Cesspools were filled in
- Janet Ebert, Township Botanist, recommended use of Annual Rye. Idea is to be as natural and maintenance-free as possible.
- A neighbor wants to donate two days of Chadds Ford Tree Service work at the site. Dave believes such donations to governmental entities are tax-deductible.

Development Updates – OS Fund is approximately \$1,082,000 with about \$150,000 collected annually. Future and potential use of development rights discussed for developable land. Sarah recommended a “parcel analysis” which considers topography, zoning, etc.

Letter to Large Landowners – Emily will forward latest draft to OSC. Consider landowners of five or more acres. Also consider adding a contact person on the letter to facilitate communications.

Open Space May Meeting Agenda – Discussed letter concerning Chadds Ford Village

Public Comment - none.

Upon a motion by Dave Poston, seconded by Mike Pessagno, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Goodier
Secretary, Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee