

MINUTES
Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee
Thursday, May 11, 2023

Attendance

Peter Mattes, Chair
David Poston, Vice Chair
Kathleen Goodier, Secretary via ZOOM
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 7:02pm.

Announcements – None

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the April 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Rob King, seconded by Mike Pessagno.

Routine Business/Reports

Mother Archie’s Cleanup Recap – The cleanup on April 13th was very successful and volunteers collected a large pile of trash and debris. The Boy Scouts were a pleasure to work with and did a great job. Dave commented on their exemplary attitude. The Township applied for a PHMC Grant for further restoration.

Brandywine Conservancy announced they are accepting applications through the end of May for their mini-grant program.

New/Old Business/Reports

New Business

Brandywine Creek Greenway Southern Regional Roundtable – Emily and Peter will attend the roundtable on May 12th at the Pennsbury Township Municipal Building. It is a great opportunity to hear about projects in neighboring municipalities. Peter asked for ideas regarding CFT Open Space topics to discuss.

Subdivision and Land Development List of Approved Street Trees Discussion – As the Planning Commission considers changes to this chapter of Chadds Ford’s SALDO, Kathleen forwarded “Appendix 1” which is the above-mentioned list. Helene cited restrictions for planting under power lines. Rob recommended sticking with native plants as best as possible and Sarah recommended diversifying plantings. We recommend removing Bradford Pear and Green Ash. Zelkova is very bushy. Consider adding Sugar Maple, Black Gum, American Hybrid Chestnut, Pin Oak, White Oak. There might be some crossover with the list the OSC is compiling of Approved Trees for Donation. Emily will facilitate a dialogue with TCA to compile the best list for CFT.

Old Business

Renaming of Former Girl Scout Camp, Sunset Hill – Rob spoke with the Chadds Ford Historical Society about the proposed name “Sunset Hill Preserve.” They were unaware of any other notable history of the property. Kathleen made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Girl Scout Camp property be formally renamed “Sunset Hill Preserve.” It was seconded by Rob King and passed unanimously. Rob received permission from the Township Manager for two more days of work at “Sunset Hill Preserve.”

Signage Located at Township Open Space and Open Space Logo – could be symbolic to the history of CFT. Peter recommends simplicity. Rob suggested a tree (sycamore, oak) with the Brandywine. Perhaps the Gilpin House. A silhouette could add to simplicity. Consider leaving the word “Township” off the logo to be less wordy. Sarah will try to find a recommendation for a graphic designer. The logo would be specific to the OSC and would be recognizable on signs on our municipal lands.

Development Updates – Rob had a conversation with a landowner who is interested in selling approximately 7 acres in a key area of runoff for Painters Crossing Condominiums. Rob will get information to Emily to set up a meeting between the township and the landowner.

Open Space June Meeting Agenda –

- Possible letter concerning Chadds Ford Village. Further discussion of the sketch plan is expected at a future joint meeting with the BOS and Planning Commission. Kathleen recommended that the OSC ask to be invited to that meeting.
- Helene discussed potential future playground events with CFHS. Peter recommended inviting interested parties to an open space meeting a few months prior. Should discuss budget.
- Storytime – Mike sent a draft of an updated reading list for review by Rachel Kohl Library and a draft of the flyer to Emily.
- Brandywine Conservancy mini-grant – possible to apply even if we have an unused grant outstanding.
- Debbie Reardon Memorial – Rob will follow up with Bob Reardon. Emily will forward the email thread to Sarah.
- Helene noted UCFSD in-service days for possible playground events. Two are election days.

Public Comment - Kathleen had circulated an email from a resident of a neighboring Township concerned about purple markings on trees along the northern stretch of Creek Road. Rob verified that they are markings noting “no trespassing” per the PA Game Commission standards.

Native Plant Sale at the Brandywine Conservancy starting on Friday, May 12 for members and May 13-14 for the general public.

Upon a motion by Mike Pessagno, seconded by Sarah Sharp, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2023.

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