

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

Attendance

Peter Mattes, Chair
David Poston, Vice Chair
Kathleen Goodier, Secretary (arrived at 8:15pm)
Mike Pessagno
Sarah Sharp
Emily Pisano, Assistant Township Manager
Regrets: Helene Badeau
Rob King
Lois Saunders
Noelle Barbone, Supervisor Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Announcements – Emily reported:

Mother Archie’s group will meet later this month to discuss the grant we received for the feasibility report.

Harvey Run Trail Report will be distributed at the next meeting.

Discuss tree initiative next meeting.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the June 8, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Sarah Sharp, seconded by Mike Pessagno. Dave Poston requested a clarification be added: “in the Township” concerning the fish migration.

Routine Business/Reports – None

New/Old Business/Reports

New Business

Tot Trail – Tabled until next meeting. Sarah expressed concern over delaying due to Rob King’s previous assertion that mowing is preferable in dry conditions. Peter will contact Rob.

Addition of August Open Space Committee Meeting – All agree that adding a meeting is not necessary at this time.

Pumpkin Carving Event – (October 14th) Linda Allen, pumpkin sculptor, attended via zoom. She discussed her experience, expectations and concerns.

- She uses kid-friendly tools. All ages would be welcome.

- Small pumpkins are difficult; soft, basketball sized pumpkins are better. The small ones could be painted.
- We expect to limit attendance and start with a sign-up. Volunteers would be helpful and parental attendance strongly encouraged.
- Ms. Allen offered to shop for the pumpkins and supply a bill.
- Emily gave Ms. Allen her email to send pictures of her work.
- Ms. Allen would like to know by mid-August if we would like to have her participate.

We should clarify if we are buying the tools, or if she is lending them.

Emily suggested that this activity would work well with a larger Harvest Festival-like event.

Ms. Allen's estimate for her services is \$300.

Peter Mattes moved that the Open Space Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors a Pumpkin Carve event at the Chadds Ford Township Park, with an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Mike Pessagno. All voted in favor.

SLDO Landscape Plan Review – Emily distributed 110-36 and a few definitions for review. Kathleen explained that the Planning Commission is currently reviewing the ordinance and is looking for our input specifically on F(1) but she hopes the committee reviews the entire section. She asks that any comments be emailed to her.

Peter commented that in F(4) the term “nailed” could be improved so developers can't use other means such as screws. Kathleen noted that the ban on brightly colored paint likely predated the “Purple Paint Law” to deter trespassers.

2024 Budget Discussion – Peter Mattes made a motion to recommend to the BOS that a recreation line item be added to the Chadds Ford Township 2024 budget in the amount of \$5,000, seconded by Mike Pessagno. All voted in favor. This can be used to fund such activities as story time and other seasonal offerings to the community.

There have been a few pavilion rentals. They have gone well.

Old Business

Letter to Property Owners (5+ acres) – The letter and brochure have been reviewed. Needs to be executed. It has been several years since our last outreach and there was some interest received. Recommendations:

- Add a listing of properties that have recently been preserved.
- Invite letter recipients to an informational or Q and A session. Perhaps the next OSC meeting.
- Include an interest form to return.
- Have a landowner currently using a conservation easement discuss their experience.
- Broaden the group of people who can respond to the letter recipients.
- Include a “Hey, I'm in!” type of link for more information.

Chadds Ford Open Space Signs – Tabled until next meeting.

Development Updates – 1386 Baltimore Pike – The Planning Commission requested the applicant determine if they need zoning relief and to go to the Sewer Authority.

Kathleen reported that much of last night's Planning Commission meeting was spent on the proposed Cultural Campus zoning designation. It includes properties owned by the Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art and much of it is located in the floodplain. Building height would begin to be calculated after the necessary raising due to flood levels.

Open Space September Meeting Agenda

- SLDO Landscape Plan Review
- Tree Initiative
- Pumpkin Carve Event
- Storytime Closeout

Public Comment – No public was present.

Upon a motion by Peter Mattes, seconded by Mike Pessagno, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 14th, 2023.

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