

MINUTES
Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee
Thursday, September 14, 2023

Attendance

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

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

Announcements – Emily reported problems with the Zoom for this meeting. Peter noted that Emily is now the Interim Township Manager and thanked her for continuing to do a great job.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – None

Approval of Minutes

After noting that Mike Pessagno should be added to attendee list, the Minutes for the July 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mike Pessagno, seconded by Sarah Sharp.

Routine Business/Reports

Harvey Run Trail Report – Sarah asked if annual data can be collected. Emily will investigate and hopefully provide a year-end report. Trail usage continues to be strong.

Update on PHMC Grants:

Mother Archie's – The Mother Archie's Task Force met in early August to discuss the 20K grant. They will schedule a public meeting, perhaps at the BOS November meeting to update the public on the process. Emily hoped the RFP will be completed in October and interested consultants can attend the public meeting. Emily asked members of the OSC to suggest possible consultants. She can forward the RFP to members of the OSC when it is completed.

Painters Folly – There was a delay in getting out the grant agreements and there will be a general webinar with PHMC in early October.

FHWA Byways Grant – Kathleen asked for an update – PennDOT is working on folding this grant into the Walkable Chadds Ford project as the projects in the Byway grant support WCF.

Pumpkin Carve Event – Emily reported that she has secured Linda Allen, the pumpkin sculptor who attended the July 2023 OSC meeting for the event on October 14 and also for the rain date. She will circulate a sign up and is buying supplies. She will gauge interest and may have to cap it as space is limited. Considering splitting time by age groups.

New/Old Business/Reports

New Business

2023 Tree Initiative/Giveaway – The BOS approved expenditures not to exceed \$700 for the event which is to be held at the Township Recycling Day on October 28th. It was agreed that fewer trees were needed than last year, which was 100. Rob King said he had about 60 American Sycamore volunteer trees from 1 to 3 or 4 feet tall that he would be willing to donate. He has some pots but will see what other supplies he may need. Emily will recirculate the informational page from last year so it can be reworked for the American Sycamore. Consider adding a blurb about the historical significance of the sycamore to the Township.

Storytime Closeout for 2023 – Numbers were usually consistent with 7-9 children each week. There were new volunteers, including Supervisor Noelle Barbone. The children were generally between 1-5 years old so consider more books targeted at the younger ages. The activity between books was successful.

Old Business

Letter to Property Owners (5+ acres) – Emily created a list of about 110 landowners. The letter has been approved but she will add a QR code that the recipient can use for more information. Emily will bring a hard copy of the letter next month for final review and approval.

Chadds Ford Open Space Signs – Tabled until next meeting.

Tot Trail – Peter and Rob will walk the area when it cools off and the vegetation thins. They will walk Sunset Hill Preserve soon. An invitation to join the walk was extended.

Development Updates – Kathleen reported that revised drafts of SALDO and the Zoning Code have been recommended to the BOS. The potential (V)-Village ordinance was discussed at a Joint Meeting of the BOS and Planning Commission in August. The proposed Cultural Campus district was discussed at the September PC meeting.

Open Space September Meeting Agenda

- Large Landowner letter
- Tree Flyer
- Chadds Ford Open Space Signs
- Debbie Reardon Tree Memorial – Emily is working with Stephanie Armpriester from the Brandywine Conservancy on a plaque. Rob King would be willing to donate a Bur Oak and noted they can be hard to find. A November planting is considered.

Public Comment – No public was present.

Upon a motion by Kathleen Goodier, seconded by Rob King, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 12th, 2023.

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