

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES  
APRIL 9, 2008**

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Richard Whipple, Chairman, called the April 9, 2008 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Members of the Board that were present included Ms. Nan Latimer, Mr. Norman Hughes, Mr. Paul Overton, and Mr. Eric Brindle. Others present included Mr. Ralph Olivier, Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mark Thompson, Township Solicitor, Mr. Phil Geoghegan, Chairman of the Open Space Committee, Mr. Jeff Eastburn, Assistant Twp. Mgr., and Mr. Stephen Ross, Interim Township Manager. There were ten members of the public in attendance.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Whipple announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss possible land acquisition. There will be another executive session held following the public meeting to further discuss land acquisition. There was no other public comment.

**Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2008v3:**

On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the minutes of March 12, 2008 were approved. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**Planning and Zoning:**

a. *Escrow Releases:*

1. *Paradoxc Vineyard – Escrow Release No. 1 for \$38,822:* On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Brindle, the Board authorized the Staff of the Township to draw and release a check in the amount of \$38,822 to Paradoxc Vineyards leaving a fund balance of \$9,654.45 plus interest. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0
2. *Wyndemere – Escrow Release No. 1 for \$473,338.40:* On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the Board authorized the Township Staff to prepare a letter to the applicant's financial institution authorizing release of \$473,338.40 leaving a fund balance of \$1,082,731.50. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
3. *Cornerstone Presbyterian Church – Escrow Release No. 1 for \$141,889.11:* On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the Township Staff was authorized to draft a letter to the applicant's financial institution authorizing the release of \$141,889.11 leaving a fund balance of \$441,099.68. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**New Business:**

- a. *Computer Networking:* Mr. Ross provided background information on the proposed Franklin Township Computer Networking System. The system being considered is to link the various computer participants into a single network system enabling the sharing of data. The networking system will allow the office staff and members of the Board to access data that has been made available. Mr. Ross introduced Greg Gurev of MySherpa who provided information about his firm. In addition he explained the benefits of having a computer networking system and answered questions from the Board. On motion by Mr. Whipple, seconded by Ms. Latimer, the Board authorized the purchase of hardware and software systems directly from the manufacturer or the state piggy-back purchasing program at a cost not to exceed \$6,669.00. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to purchase from MySherpa the labor, server setup, network setup and migration of computers to network at a cost not to exceed \$5,809.80. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Overton, to authorize the Township to enter into a service agreement with MySherpa that will provide maintenance of the system at a set fee of \$465 per month. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- b. *Botanical Study Review:* Mr. Whipple provided introductory comments regarding the Botanical Study and Mr. Geoghegan introduced Mrs. Janet Ebert, a sub-consultant of the Brandywine Conservancy, and provided a summary of the work Mrs. Ebert has done and is continuing to do for the Township. Mrs. Ebert reviewed the Botanical Survey that was prepared and submitted in a report dated February, 2008. The survey was commissioned by the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors and funded by a combination of White Clay National Wild and Scenic River funds provided through the National Park Service, and Township monies. The purpose was to inventory the plant species within the Township, paying special attention to the location and quality of native plant communities, the distribution of alien invasive plants, and the presence of state-listed species of special concern. Mrs. Ebert commented that several residents wanted a list of species that were found on their property and she wanted them to know that the lists will be provided. Mr. Whipple expressed his opinion that the report is very detailed and well done thanking Mrs. Ebert for her efforts. Mr. Whipple opened the discussion to questions from the public and the following participated:
- Mr. Auerbach asked if there were plans to remediate the alien species.
  - Mr. Hatton questioned whether there were any signs of the chestnut trees coming back and if "Johnson Grass" is considered an alien species.
  - Mr. Paul Overton questioned if portions of the report (such as the cream buttercup) are filed with the County or some other entity for future interest. Forms are filed with PA Natural Diversity Endeavor.
  - Mr. Olivier questioned whether species were identified on the Howard Property.

**APPROVED**

- c. Open Space: Mr. Whipple began the discussion by advising that the Open Space Committee has been working with the Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust to secure various properties and easements for the purpose of broadening the open space inventory within Franklin Township. Mr. Jack Stefferud was available from Natural Lands Trust and Mr. Robert Lonsdorf from the Brandywine Conservancy. Mr. Geoghegan presented the following applications for Board consideration and approval:

Goodwin 17 Acres: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to authorize the acquisition of the Goodwin Tract being 17 +/- acres at a cost not to exceed \$28,000. Mr. Olivier questioned whether this parcel was shown on their sketch plan. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Goodwin 43 Acres: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Brindle, to authorize the acquisition of the Goodwin Tract being 43 +/- acres at an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to assist Natural Lands Trust with the acquisition. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

North of Chesterville Road 60 acres – Resolution 2008-09: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to authorize the approval of Resolution 2008-09 which authorizes the submission of a grant application to DCNR for the acquisition of a 60 acre property north of Chesterville Road. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Grant Application – Resolution 2008-09: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to authorize \$1,000 for the preparation of a grant application for a 60-acre property which was the subject of Resolution 2008-09. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Grant Application: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for the application preparation of a grant for acquisition of a 100-acre parcel north of Parsons Rd. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0

**Public Comment**: Mr. Auerbach questioned whether the names of the property owners are going to be revealed in the future.

**Adjourn**: Mr. Whipple moved, seconded by Mr. Overton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stephen J. Ross

Township Mgr./Sect.