

# Franklin Township Open Space Committee

**Subject:** Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
**Meeting Date:** December 11, 2006 @ 6:30 PM in the Township Building  
**Meeting Attendees:** Bob Brechter, Phil Geoghegan, Dolores Hughes, Paul Overton, Teddy Price, Robert Lonsdorf (Consultant)

## Plant Inventory

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the Township proceed with a "Plant Inventory of Franklin Township" as proposed by Robert Lonsdorf and Janet Ebert (Attached). The methodology would be the same as that used in London Grove Township and planned for other areas. The data from all Townships in the White Clay Creek watershed will eventually be consolidated. In addition to the 'positive' outcomes inherent in the Purposes described in the proposal, the Committee felt that the Inventory would benefit both the Open Space Committee and the Planning Committee in determining areas that should be preserved as part of new development and new conservation initiatives. Data would also be available when beginning to deal with developers or landowners, rather than much later.

### *Action Items:*

Prepare TreeVitalize grant application	PG	12-06
Recommendation to Board	PG	01-07
Prepare list of properties for survey	RL	01-07

## Trail Feasibility Study

The RFP has been approved by DCNR. Steve Ross has sent it to legal for their OK.

<i>Action Items:</i> Legal Approval	SR	12-06
Complete design of selection process	SR-RW-PG	12-06
Complete Selection Process	SR-RW-PG	03-07
Begin Study		04-07

## Riparian Restoration

We are still in the learning process and have not decided what, if anything, the Open Space Committee should do or recommend. Existing programs may pay (maybe \$2,000/acre) for the trees and other materials such as protective tubes and stakes. The hard part for landowners is getting the trees planted. This may be done by the owner, volunteers or landowner-paid contractors. Possible approaches include restoration of Township-owned lands with paid or volunteer help, restoration of Homeowner Association owned lands with homeowner volunteers, and restoration of private lands with a variety of volunteers or contractors.

<i>Action Items:</i> Issue reference site URLs	PG	12-06
Gain familiarity with subject, programs, etc	ALL	03-06
Determine when restoration seminar will be held	RL	01-07
Attend seminar		03-06

**Landowner Outreach**

We reviewed and discussed Bob Brechter’s suggestions and agreed that:  
 An OSC member should be assigned to each parcel to maximize our awareness and understanding of each owner/parcel.  
 More next steps would be helpful.  
 We should look at smaller parcels (10 – 25 acres).

<i>Action Items:</i> Assign every large parcel to an OSC member	ALL	01-08-07
ALL- Look over the list and select those you wish to contact – send me your selections by 12-19. I’ll compile and we can fill in any unfilled slots next month.		
Prepare a list of smaller parcels (owner, parcel #, size).	RL	12-06
RL – send list to all OSC (or to me and I’ll forward it). All – familiar yourselves with those properties in your neighborhood, at least, in preparation for next month’s meeting.		

**Next Meeting**

Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM in the Township Building.

**PROPOSAL FOR  
PLANT INVENTORY OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY, PA**

November, 2006

**Purposes:**

- To inventory the plants and plant communities of the township;
- To identify areas and sites for special consideration for preservation and management, including - rare plant sites, outstanding natural areas (woodlands, wetlands, and meadows), stream corridors, and environmental greenway corridors;
- To provide background research usable for future planning purposes;
- To assist in the education and appreciation of the public regarding unique and special botanical and natural features of the township.

The township spans portions of three watersheds, including White Clay Creek, which is a designated national Wild and Scenic River. It extends to the Maryland border and is in an important transition area to a more southern flora and some plants considered rare in PA.

**Methods:** The township will be divided into a number of sections, using natural and man-made features. A separate plant list will be kept for each section. Plant lists could also be kept for individual landowners on request. The inventory will be conducted with visits to each section in all seasons as appropriate. Surveying would be performed via roadside observations and exploring public land and properties of willing landowners.

This survey is presumed to be primarily under the general auspices of Franklin Township's Open Space Committee (with a secondary oversight role for the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Management Committee). In-person status reports will be presented periodically by mutual agreement. A final report will include a general map of high quality vegetation types, a list of any PNDI species of special concern and regionally rare plants, discussion of important plant communities and natural areas, and discussion of general management problems such as alien invasives and deer.

Janet Ebert and Jack Holt, botanical consultants, will conduct the field work and provide the plant lists, rare plant reports, and vegetation analysis. The Brandywine Conservancy will provide mapping as needed, and will coordinate land owner outreach and Township participation through the Open Space Committee. Franklin Township, primarily through the Open Space Committee will be expected to assist with landowner contact and outreach efforts in order to facilitate the entire process.

Surveying could begin immediately upon approval of this proposal, and the final report would be produced by the end of January, 2008.

**Budget:** \$ 5,000 – to be shared 50-50 between Franklin Township and the White Clay Wild and Scenic Management Committee.

**Approved:**

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Franklin Township

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White Clay W&S Management Comm.

Date:  
  
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