

APPROVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Call to Order: Committee Chairperson, Teddy Price called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Committee Members Nan Latimer, Paul Overton, Bob Brechter, John Hocking and Phil Geoghegan. Also present were Robert Lonsdorf from Brandywine Conservancy, Linda Stapleford from the White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic Group and Julie Morris from North Creek Nursery. Board of Supervisors Chairman Dick Whipple, Supervisor Eric Brindle and Assistant Township Mgr. Jeff Eastburn were also present.

Public Comment: Mr. Lonsdorf introduced Linda Stapleford as the Administrator for the White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic organization and Julie Morris from North Creek Nursery, both of whom are in attendance to participate in the Riparian Reforestation discussion.

Riparian Reforestation on White Clay Creek: Mr. Lonsdorf passed out copies of a "Concept Map" and explained the plan for the reforestation which will occur in April 2010. The map indicates approximately a 100 ft. buffer on each side of the middle branch of the White Clay Creek (WCC). He advised that the PA Horticultural Society has guaranteed 2,450 trees for the project which will cover approximately 6 acres. The trees have been donated through the Tree Vitalize Program, started by DCNR, as well as Aqua of PA, PECO & PennVest. The species list is yet to be determined but will be taken from Janet Ebert's "Trees of Franklin Township" list and will consist of locally native species that are available from Octorara Nursery. John Hocking made the point that this is a very wet area and the trees selected should be those that do well in a wet environment. Mr. Lonsdorf believes that the trees will be containerized and will include stakes and 5 ft. deer tubes. The retail value of the trees, stakes and tubes is approximately \$30,000.

Topics discussed included the following:

- Preparation of the planting site prior to planting - mowing and perhaps some spraying of invasive plants with "Rodeo" (not Round-Up).
- A delivery and distribution plan - including identifying the species of the trees and staking the area with corresponding identification, perhaps color coding, to be done the day before planting.
- Robert Lonsdorf is to check to see if the trees will be palletized which would make it easier to move them to the other side of the WCC.
- The need for approximately 100 volunteers (with shovels). Having a two-day planting event with 50 volunteers on each day in the hope that some volunteers would work both days.
- The need for approximately 10 "leaders" (trained individuals) to work with groups of volunteers, 1-10 ratio. Julie Morris from North Creek Nursery has a database of landscape contractors in the area and she offered to contact some of them to see if they might volunteer to help as leaders or just to monitor the work of the volunteers.
- An ongoing maintenance plan for the site for approximately 3 years, until the trees are well established. This site is very visible and will need to be well maintained.
- Publicity for the event - notices will be placed in the Township newsletter, the local papers, and the Township website. Robert will check with Bern Sweeney to establish a

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date for the event, and with the Horticultural Society to coordinate delivery of the trees.

- Linda Stapleford discussed the Reforestation Workshop that is planned for March 6, 2010 at the London Grove Township building. Jessie Benjamin of Stroud Research is very involved with the workshop and is very interested in working with the Township on their reforestation project. Publicity for the workshop will include the need for volunteers for this project. At the end of the workshop a demonstration of the proper tree planting technique will be given and perhaps the first people to register as volunteers for the project will be given a tree. Linda has asked for a list of primary landowners to whom invitations will be mailed. Jeff Eastburn will assist in providing names and addresses.

Mr. Lonsdorf suggested that it would be helpful to have a core team of interested volunteers available for the February meeting of this committee to help with final details of the Township's project.

The committee discussed the options of mown trail locations on the Bannfshire preserve. Phil Geoghegan gave an update on the White Clay Creek Inter-Municipal trail project. There are ongoing discussions with the Twin Bridges Homeowners Association about connecting the trail and bridge across the creek through homeowners' association property.

Nan Latimer discussed a meeting she and Dick Whipple had with Nathan Graham from the Fair Hill Nature Preserve in Maryland about construction and maintenance of the trails in the preserve.

Ms. Latimer also briefly reviewed the balances in the various township open space –related funds.

The committee then adjourned into Executive Session to discuss specific projects.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjourn: Ms. Price made a motion to adjourn the November 10, 2009 Open Space Meeting and the motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teddy Price
Open Space Committee Chairman

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