

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES
MAY 18TH, 2011**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ron Hoover called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Bob Eberhart, Ben Pisoni, Jerry Brown, Andy Merritt and Brooks Way. Staff present was Susan Steele, Manager and Amy Smith, Minute Recorder. No Audience present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES

• ***MOTION: Mr. Pisoni moved to approve the minutes of February 23rd, 2011; Mr. Brown seconded; Vote 6-0-0; Motion Carried.***

4. ANNUAL OSPB REPORT

The Open Space Board reviewed the 2010 annual report for the OSPP. The report included 2010 application information for John Heim & Tricore Group, tax collection figures, payout figures and total current acreage information.

• ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve the 2010 Open Space Preservation Board report; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 6-0-0; Motion Carried***

5. PROCESS FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT WILDLIFE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Eberhart stated Clearwater Conservancy submitted a plan for a 10 lot parking area off the cul-de-sac in Trotter Farms about a month or two ago to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan and suggested Clearwater add a rain garden near the parking area to catch stormwater (rain garden will not be paved). The Planning Commission approved the plan and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors who also approved the plan. Mr. Eberhart questioned who should look at such plans with regards to the Wildlife Corridor since it is in the Open Space Preservation Program as a permanent preservation easement purchased with OSPP funds. Mr. Eberhart questioned if the OSPB should also review these plans since they do the annual inspection on the property and is responsible for doing the 5 year review for the 99 year lease properties. Ms. Steele stated a subdivision plan or land development plan are held to subdivision standards and that is why they are reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Eberhart stated any changes to the property have to be consistent with subdivision regulations and the conservation easement agreement. Mr. Eberhart stated if Clearwater wants to make major changes, particularly if it is a conflict with the conservation lease it should come to the OPSB to review and make recommendations. Ms. Steele explained that the reason it went to the Planning Commission is because it was submitted as a Land Development Plan because of stormwater issues but in the future she would agree with Mr. Eberhart that it should come to the OPSB. Mr. Eberhart stated they would not necessarily need to review the trees or trail installation but the sign would fall under the conservation easement. Mr. Merritt stated it is going to be beautiful when it is done. Ms. Steele questioned whether the OSPB would want to review any zoning permits issued for those properties, i.e. shed permits. Mr. Eberhart stated he did not think they needed to review permits but would like to be informed so when doing the inspection they are aware of those changes.

• ***MOTION: Mr. Eberhart moved that in the future any actions involved with the Wildlife Corridor or any property in the lease program should be brought before the Open Space Preservation Board either for review or awareness; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 6-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Ms. Smith will review the conservation easement for the Wildlife Corridor and make a list of items the OSPB will need to review for future projects on this property.

Ms. Steele explained to the OSPB why the parking lot was done as a Land Development Plan and stated the Zoning Officer wanted to get the Engineer involved for stormwater management on the rain garden.

Mr. Eberhart provided the inspection report for the Wildlife Corridor which was completed on May 17th, 2011. Members present were: Ron Hoover, Andy Merritt and Bob Eberhart along with Ms. Smith and David Piper. There were no new structures observed and no deviations from the requirements of the conservation easement were noted. Mr. Hoover commented there were bluebird boxes installed along the perimeter of the Wildlife Corridor and a portion of the property nearest the Gamelands has some new forestry planted. Ms. Smith will send Mr. Hilshey a letter stating the property has met satisfaction with the requirements of their conservation easement.

Mr. Hoover stated there were some finishing furrows that were a little rough and has concern that visitors may fall or trip and suggested requesting these be smoothed out along the ridge. Ms. Steele stated she will find out if the trails will meet ADA requirements.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Brown stated he has intention of clearing forest on his property that is in the OSPP and asked if there were any objections. Mr. Way stated he is permitted to timber according to his lease. Mr. Brown stated he just wanted to let the OPSB know. Mr. Way questioned how many acres Mr. Brown planned to timber. Mr. Brown stated as many as he could. Mr. Way questioned how many acres Mr. Brown had. Mr. Brown stated he had about 445.76 total, 209 of that tillable and about 235 woodland. There were no objections from the Board.

Ms. Steele stated she will check with Ms. Yurchak on the status of the Heim & Tricore Applications.

Ms. Steele reminded the OSPB there will be a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors on June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to hear a presentation by Joe Tylka regarding the OSPP five year review. Ms. Steele stated Mr. Tylka did an excellent job on this presentation. Mr. Hoover stated he also heard the presentation and it was very informative and Mr. Tylka took a different perspective of the task and projected figures that very interesting. Ms. Steele stated the program does not support itself and the Board will be interested to see the projected figures.

Ms. Steele stated the township has received the largest OSPP tax payment and would like to have all leases in order to make payments in July.

Ms. Steele stated the Board of Supervisors will be taking public comments on the Wildlife Corridor parking area at their May 26th, meeting if any members would like to attend.

7. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Way moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 6-0-0; Motion Carried.***