

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING-MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reed Moyer (present at the Municipal building) called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other members present were Christine Bracken-Piper (present at the Municipal building), Ron Hoover (present at the Municipal building), Jim Smith (present at the Municipal building), Patti & Mark Hartle (participated by phone, called at 7:25 p.m.), and Joanne Fisher (present at the Municipal building). Staff present was Amy Smith, OSPB Administrator (present at the Municipal building), and Rebekah Laird, Recording Secretary (present at the Municipal building). No audience present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

4. MINUTES

- *MOTION: Mr. Hoover moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 11th, 2023 as submitted; Ms. Fisher seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion carried.*

5. CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Ryan Hamilton, Clearwater Conservancy was unable to be present due to technical difficulties with Zoom. Mr. Moyer stated he would ask Mr. Hamilton to give an email update he could share with the board at a later time.

6. PERMANENT PURCHASE INTEREST DISCUSSION

Mr. Moyer suggested that another letter be sent out to landowners in the program to reevaluate if there was any more interest in permanent easement since some properties had changed ownership or because some people might have changed their minds. Mr. Moyer also stated that perhaps sending out the letter every year in the future might help to keep interest and possibly get more interest down the line. Mr. Smith asked if they send out a letter each year what would be the process to ensure properties are ranked fairly. The board then discussed briefly the following points:

- How to balance keeping continued interest while working to gain new interest in a way that would be fair to all interested parties.
- What properties had changed ownership since last interest letter had been sent out.
- How best to be able to finance permanent easements and continuing to grow relationships with programs that could help fund those permanent easement purchases.

The board agreed at this time to send out letters to landowners for at least this year that had not already shown an interest in permanent easement in the past.

- **MOTION:** *Ms. Bracken-Piper moved to send out an interest letter to landowners currently in the lease program that had not shown an interest before in permanent easement purchase; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 7-0-0; Motion carried.*

Mr. Moyer stated that he would revise the letter and send it out to the board to approve or make changes. A brief update was given on the permanent easement purchase for the Fisher property.

7. 2023 GOALS

There was brief discussion on what the board thought would be the best goals to work on for the remainder of this year and identified the following:

- Continue to work on permanent easement purchase for Fisher property
- Do any property inspections that need accomplished in fall.
- Any work that needs done to maintain what properties are already in the program
- Focus on working toward permanent easement purchases
- Work on forming partnerships/relationships with organizations that would help fund permanent easement purchases.

There was a brief discussion on looking into the Western PA Conservancy for possible partnership for permanent easement purchases and a suggestion was put forth that perhaps doing a presentation for them might be beneficial.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

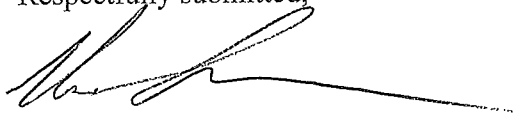
There was no other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Hoover moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.; Mr. Smith seconded; Vote 7-0-0; Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,



Rebekah Laird,
OSPB Recording Secretary