

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD & BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JOINT MEETING- MINUTES  
OCTOBER 11, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Reed Moyer (present at the Municipal building) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Other members present were Ms. Christine Bracken-Piper (present at the Municipal building) Patti Hartle (present at the Municipal building), Mark Hartle (present at the Municipal building) 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). Audience present at the Municipal building was Sadie Harvey and Emily McGrory.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Two Penn state students (listened in the audience) were in attendance to take notes on what transpires during the meeting and gave a brief overview of the pilot program they were working with.

**4. MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as submitted; Ms. Fisher seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion carried.***

**5. PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT RESPONSES**

Mr. Moyer stated that two letters were sent out, one to landowners who had previously shown interest in pursuing permanent easement on property in the lease program and an additional letter to those who had not originally shown interest to see if there was interest. The results were as follows:

- Of the nine original properties that showed interest in permanent easement four responded with a continued interest, one was no longer interested and there were four no responses.
- Of the remaining properties that had not shown interest originally there was one property that was not interested, two inquired further about permanent easement but gave no commitment, four expressed an interested in permanent easement and the remaining properties gave no response.

There was some discussion about making personal inquiries to landowners that gave no responses or were no longer interested. There was discussion on sending out a second letter to those who gave no response as a reminder. There was discussion that new properties interested would need to be rated and those who inquired should also be rated. There was brief discussion about sizes of land parcels that were interested in permanent easement and possible partnerships that could be available including the county program. There was discussion about having Mr. Hoover at a future meeting explain further how the county program works to have a better understanding. Ms. Hartle stated that perhaps all properties should be rated, beginning with the ones that showed an interest, so that information would be readily available for the eventuality that one of the properties that had shown no original interest changed their mind.

**6. FISHER PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT EXPERIENCE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Fisher stated that she would like to postpone this discussion so she could better gather her thoughts to give an account of her experience. The discussion was postponed for next OSPP meeting.

**7. OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRAM ORDINANCE REVIEW (Criteria for acceptance into the program)**

Mr. Moyer stated that it is required per the ordinance to review the rating scale every year to make any necessary adjustment recommendations. Mr. Moyer reminded the board that there are currently two rating scales, one for permanent easement and one for lease, and only the lease rating scale is required to be reviewed but both should be reviewed. Ms. Bracken-Piper stated that maybe look at the differences to see if perhaps they could combine them or keep the same.

The following items were highlighted from the discussion

- Ensure rating scales reflect all focus areas that program is looking to preserve as there has been different focus areas
- Perhaps hold another open house to see what the public might think the program should focus on
- Have a possible reference on what partnerships might be available to help preserve the property.

The board had brief discussion on different permanent easement options that might be available and how best to present to the public.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was brief discussion about part of Ms. Fisher's property that she was still looking to preserve and next steps to help with that. There was brief discussion about a property adjoining Ms. Fisher's property but it was not in the program at this time so there was discussion about reaching out to the landowner.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Hartle moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm; Ms. Bracken-Piper seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion carried.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebekah Laird  
OSPB Recording Secretary