

Barrett Township Open Space Advisory Board
January 14th 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendants: Patti O'Keeth, Sally Duffy, Pat Dougherty, Dale Price, Frank May, Paul Stotsenburg, Bill Barry and Judy Stillinger

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm. The group welcomed new committee member Dale Price and new Township Supervisor Paul Stotsenburg. Mr. Stotsenburg formally instated the Board for calendar year 2010. Nominations for officers was requested and the Board confirmed Frank May as chair and secretary and Judy Stillinger as vice-chair.

A discussion was had regarding trying to find a representative of Skytop to round out the committee. Several names were mentioned which will be pursued.

Those who attended gave a brief report on the recent Brodhead/Paradise Greenway Coalition roundtable. The focus of the group is now to "connect the dots" through a network of trails through protected areas. The regional open space meeting will continue to coincide with the larger group, the next meeting scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the month, January 28th.

A discussion of possible open space opportunities ensued. Frank May reported on Laurel Grove. The Bank that holds the property in foreclosure is willing to sell the golf course property separately. They have had an appraisal done that determined that the 20.79-acre parcel was worth \$680,000. The other parcel, 10.9 acres, which contains the buildings, was appraised at \$865,000. The amount of the mortgage on the property on record was \$560,000. All agreed that the appraisals were unrealistic in the extreme. Based on the Gravel property, a number closer to \$5,000 to \$6,000 an acre was more appropriate. The group decided to recommend obtaining an independent appraisal to the Board of Supervisors. Frank May was asked to obtain bids from appraisers to present to the Supervisors.

The group expressed concern over the lack of a management plan for the Gravel Family Preserve and that some development activity has occurred without consultation with the Environmental Advisory or Open Space Boards. It was decided to request a hearing with the Board of Supervisors to discuss this matter and the Laurel Grove property at the next public meeting scheduled for February 10th. Frank May was asked to co-ordinate with Daryl Speicher.

The next meeting is set for Thursday March 11th. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.