

New Garden Township Open Space Review Board met at the Township Building **Tuesday, February 15, 2011**. Present were Chairman Bernie McKay, Christopher Robinson, Gary Bell, Deb Dubois, and Rich Chadwick.

Guests: Margie and Jim Cummings

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated.

We welcomed Erin Lee, new consultant from Natural Lands Trust.

Treasurer - Deb reported totals as follows: loan \$1,993,580.11; savings account \$965,665.57; and checking account \$ 10,258.17, for a total of \$2,969,503.85. She noted that the amount of the loan has decreased because an appraisal charge was taken out and an interest payment made.

Old Business - Mary did not attend the January meeting of Planning Commission because of the weather. Rich will attend the April meeting.

Trails - Chris walked the Old Mill Trail and found that there is not much that needs repair. There is almost \$800 left in Dockstader grant funds. At next meeting, we will discuss setting up a Facebook account.

White Clay Creek Loop Trail - Deb went to last week's meeting where the Basciani property was discussed, located in both London Britain & Franklin Townships abutting New Garden. She suggested that maintenance be done by volunteers. They will ask Basciani about a trail easement. Homeowners of Twin Bridges development have voted no to a trail.

Chris pointed out that there is a new bridge near Sawmill Rd on the Charles Bailey Trail into the White Clay Creek Preserve, so this is another trail for NG.

Renaming Open Space parcels - Bernie gave the new names to BOS. All names were OK except Chandlerville, which should change to Chandler Woods Preserve, since Chandlerville was where Landenberg is now. At the meeting, he also reviewed the highlights of our Annual Report.

New Business - Franklin Township Open Space increased funding effort - the present rate is .05% of property tax. The Township is asking to change to .5% of earned income and is meeting flack from township residents. It goes up for referendum at May Primary election. They need more funds because there are many landowners who are interested in preserving their land.

Brittany Hills - There is land for sale fronting on Rt. 41 that is still owned by Charles Wilkinson. Some landowners in BH want to preserve it instead of having it sold. We expected representatives of BH to come tonight but they did not.

Cummings - The Cummings have 15 acres and are interested in learning the possibilities for its preservation. Their land is #129 on our priority list, yellow. Gary offered to walk the property when weather improves.

Gary moved to start our meetings at 7 PM, Deb seconded, and the motion carried. Mary will notify Pam and Chris will change the website.

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Public meeting ended at 7:15 and the Board moved to Executive Session.