

New Garden Township Open Space Review Board met at the Township Building **Tuesday, May 17, 2011**. Present were Chairman Bernie McKay, Vice Chairman Gary Bell, Rich Chadwick, Deb DuBois, Don Peters, Mary Sproat and Erin Lee. Ben Marsden and Ann Faulds were also present.

Also present were Janet Ebert and Tara Tracy from the Brandywine Conservancy. Intern Stephanie Almanza and her husband Luis of White Horse Solutions in Kennett Square attended to observe our work on trails.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's report - Deb reported balances as follows: Loan \$1,994,789.74; Savings \$1,057,942.67; and Checking \$7,096.92.

Grant Co-ordinator - Don announced that we received a grant from the Dockstader Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. We discussed how to administer the funds, since the check was made to the Township. Deb will be the co-ordinator and the only one to receive bills to submit to Lew Gay. Also, Friends of New Garden Trails need to become incorporated.

Planning Commission - Rich attended, and reported on the Basciani property on Penn Green Road and Gore's petition for exception for additional parking. The additional parking area does not affect the trail placement.

Old Business: Friends - Ben reported that about 40 attended the event at Laurel Woods trail in March. They are cleaning out invasive vines. Mill Race trail - improving Lavender Hill Lane by making it more gradual and building bridges. Dave Rickerman has offered to help with drain or boardwalk. An Eagle Scout has evinced interest in either the steps or the boardwalk. Don will meet with the Scout.

White Clay Creek Fest - Deb reported that most attendees were from Delaware but they were able to network with other trail groups. Next year, they will attend for further networking.

New Garden Day - Deb felt good about the day because many told her that they use the trail, including those who participate in the geocaching activity. Many signed up with the Friends of Trails. Next year, they will plan a walk with the theme of edible plants.

Botanical study - Tara distributed the report as well as the compact disc. Janet told about the survey method. The team discovered 795 species, 38% of which are not native (aliens), a high figure; normal is 33%. There are 8 endangered plant sites in the Township. Co-efficient of conservatism - assigned to native plants from 1-10, with 1 assigned to plants that will grow everywhere. She also described the exceptional natural areas. Janet suggested looking at Exceptional Natural areas to familiarize ourselves, so that we can educate the residents. The study will help us determine what parcels to acquire.

Discussion ensued as to how to use the report: workshop about invasive species, video by Boy Scout or student combined with walk, educating residents about important species.

We will all read through the report and discuss next month.

New Garden Township Open Space Review Board met **Tuesday, June 21, 2011** at the Township Building. Present were Chairman Bernie McKay, Vice Chairman Gary Bell, Rich Chadwick, Christopher Robinson, Mary Sproat and Erin Lee. Margie Cummings was also present.

Treasurer - the report was read by Bernie and shows a \$70,000 loan payment in June. The balances are as follows: Loan account \$1,995,211.33; Checking account \$17,026.97; and Savings account \$1,143,897.29; total \$3,156,135.59. Bills were received from NLT in the amount of \$7,155 for work by Jack & Erin on several properties, and the final bill in the amount of \$763 from the Brandywine Conservancy for Botanical Study. We have already paid \$1000 toward the Study.

Grants - As of today, Dockstader grant money not yet received.

Planning Commission - no one attended. Mary will attend June and July.

Old Business: Trails - Chris-Laurel Woods Trails finished; meadows were mowed by Township. Tree labelling needs to be finished. Mill Race Trail progressing. Boy Scout Wesley Schwarz has agreed to build the boardwalk; he will have to raise funds and get the help of other Boy Scouts for the construction. The project of draining the railroad bed remains; David Rickerman is co-ordinating the work. Another Boy Scout is working on the signs for the Old Mill Trail with Ben Marsden.

Franklin Township Open Space Funding - the referendum failed but the Township may place the question on the ballot again in November.

Botanical Study - apparently the proposed hangar construction will not touch the ENA at the Airport. (Exceptional Natural Area) Chris will build a site on the website for us and the residents to use. The Study will be a very good reference as to which properties should be protected.

Conservation Easement and Trail Easement Guide - Gary has put together a step by step guide for us to use with landowners. There are FAQ's, useful websites for us and the landowner to use, and a sample agreement. It will also provide a learning experience for the BOS. The Board approved of the document so we will begin using it, and make amendments as necessary.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 7:50 PM

New Garden Township Open Space Review Board met Tuesday, **July 19, 2011** at the Township Building. Present were Chairman Bernie McKay, Rich Chadwick, Debbie DuBois, Don Peters, Chris Robinson, Mary Sproat and Erin Lee.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer - Deb reported balances as follows: Loan Account \$1,995,619.35, Savings Account \$1,106,142.35, and Checking Account \$17,020.85, for a total of \$3,118,782.55.

Grants - Don reported that we received the \$10,000 grant from Dockstader. He sent a thank you letter.

June Planning Commission - Mary attended

Old Business: Friends of Trails - Riser sold to another purchaser but Debbie has established contact with the new owner. Don made contact with the Boy Scout, who is ready to begin the 60' boardwalk on the Mill Race Trail but has made no request for materials. Bernie will ask Joe Yaskoe to mow the meadow.

Gary added 2 documents to the Easement Process Guide.

New Business: We just received the periodical from NLT that reviews recent easements.

The Board moved to Executive session at 7:45.

Bernie McKay, Chairman  
Mary Sproat, Secretary