

The New Garden Township Open Space Review Board met Tuesday, **March 20, 2012**, at the Township Building. Present were Chairman Bernie McKay, Vice Chairman Gary Bell, Don Peters, Debbie DuBois, Christopher Robinson, Mary Sproat and Erin Lee. Also joining us were Denise Hagerty and Kenny Church.

Minutes - The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer - Debbie reported account balances as follows: loan account \$1,998,192.50, savings account \$1,267,507.93, and checking account \$24,761.11, for a total of \$3,290,461.54. We have spent \$2000 of the current Dockstader grant.

Planning Commission - Deb attended; the agenda was very short. The only subdivision plan was #162 on our list, 14 acres, so Deb wrote to the owner and learned that he is only doing 1 building lot. Gary will attend this month.

Old Business- Friends of Trails - Chris reported that chips have been delivered by David Rickerman, and benches will be delivered on April 12. Trails are in good condition. Joe Yaskoe will deliver the picnic bench soon, and Bernie asked him to mow the Laurel Woods Trail meadow. The first Community Hike will be April 14 at 10 AM; rain date April 15. It will be a tree identification hike.

New Business - Property on west side of Church Road north of Avondale - Chris and Denise walked it and found 6 tombstones on a .09 acre parcel. It is adjacent to a 4 acre parcel. Denise contacted Chris about what should be done with the cemetery. Most of the burials are Crowell family members, former owners of the property. Denise owns the parcel but does not wish to. Chris will look further into the issue, including the natural attributes since it is close to the creek.

Deb's upcoming absence - Deb will be out of the area from June through October, so she will resign from the Board and will write a resignation letter to the BOS. We considered names of some residents who could take her place, although she will continue to work on Friends of Trails. Chris will ask Hanns Derke of Brittany Hills if he is willing to have his name suggested to the BOS. John Flannery might be our next choice. Bernie will also review the volunteer directory for possible candidates.

Board Members signed releases for work on trails, but there were questions about whether volunteers are already covered by the Township's liability insurance.

New laws - HR1964 was recently introduced into the Federal House of Representatives by Rep. James Gerlach of Chester County to make the tax incentives for easements permanent.

A bill allowing trails on ag eased land with property owner's approval is making its way through the PA legislature.

At 8:25 the Board moved to Executive Session.