

**New Garden Township**  
**OPEN SPACE REVIEW BOARD**

***2013 Annual Report***

The Open Space Review Board (OSRB) remained very active during 2013. Among the notable activities and accomplishments are the following.

**Open Space Preservation Activity**

- New Garden Township now has an estimated 1180 acres of protected lands. During the year Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 8 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements.
- In the last 3 years the OSRB members had discussions with 31 property owners concerning the purchase or conservation easement of their property; in excess of 1450 acres. Conversations have proceeded, with BOS approval, to offers of purchase of land or building rights in 5 cases. 1 property was purchased, 1 conservation easement is progressing. 3 offers were refused, though contact is continuing with two owners.
- OSRB Board members have also made significant progress towards trail easement agreements with two property owners finalizing one agreement in December, 2012 and the other in 2013. The attached map provides an overview of the sub-watersheds, protected lands and trails (active and proposed) within the Township.
- The OSRB submitted two proposals for grant funding and participated in the preparation of two others in conjunction with the White Clay Creek Watershed Association. Two other proposals were submitted by the Natural Lands Trust on behalf of the Township to Chester County and the state to recoup a portion of the costs of the purchase of the Hendrickson property, A listing of the proposals that would benefit the trails of New Garden Township included the following:
  - 1) E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation (Funded for \$7,000)
  - 2) Green Region PECO Open Space Program (Funded for \$10,000)
  - 3) Watershed Restoration and Protection Grant Program, PA Department of Community and Economic Development. (In conjunction with WCCWA.) (Not Funded)
  - 4) Growing Greener Grant Project (In conjunction with WCCWA.) Submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection. (Pending)

## OSRB Membership and Activities

- In January, the Board of Supervisors reappointed Don Peters, Chris Robinson, and Ben Marsden to three year terms ending in December, 2015.
- The OSRB elected new officers: Gary Bell, Chair; Rich Chadwick, Vice-Chair; Ben Marsden Treasurer; Mary Sproat, Secretary.
- In February the BOS approved David Rickerman's appointment to the Open Space Review Board.
- In May several OSRB members attended the Annual White Clay Creek Fest. Both the OSRB and the Friends of New Garden Trails had a booth at the event.
- In December Mary Sproat announced she was retiring from the Board at the conclusion of her term.



OSRB 2013 left to right

Gary Bell, Don Peters, Ben Marsden, Mary Sproat, Rich Chadwick, Erin Lee (NLT) and Dave Rickerman. Missing, Chris Robinson, Photographer.

- In the fall the BOS retired the Open Space Review Board bank loan.
- The OSRB had an information table at New Garden Day.
- Many of the OSRB members were also active with the Friends of New Garden Trails, which was established by the OSRB.

## New Garden Township Trail System



- During 2013, the Friends of New Garden Trails maintained the Laurel Woods Trail and the Mill Race Trail as part of the New Garden Township Trail System. The Mill Race Trail may be accessed from either Lavender Hill Lane where parking is provided, (Park in one of the designated spots on the right side of the road and walk down the hill toward the Kiosk and split rail fence.) or from Auburn Road. This year, as a result of numerous storms including Hurricane Sandy, maintenance included the removal of numerous fallen or leaning trees on both trails. Thanks go out to Dave Rickerman for his time and his equipment.
- Additionally, the Friends, including OSRB members, maintained the Hendrickson property, regularly mowing the grass and preparing the house for demolition. This also included:
  - \* Clearing and spreading stone on a new parking area off Landenberg Road,
  - \* Arranging for the relocation of the power line from the house to the garage, (Thank you to Bob Perrotti and his crew.)
  - \* Clearing and developing the garage storage area, removing of trees alongside and overhanging the garage,
  - \* Widening the access driveway, grading it, and using logs and telephone poles to create a “guard rail” along the creek side,
  - \* Removing the water pump and pressure tank and moving them to the garage,
  - \* Arranging for the removal of the oil storage tank and its contents,
  - \* Interviewing potential demolition contractors.



- Volunteers worked more than 648 hours on the two trails and the Hendrickson trail head during 2013, usually in small groups of 6 - 10 of the most dedicated participants. A portion of that time was committed to work with David Rickerman on the tree removal, grading, and drainage issues on the Mill Race Trail which was completed in November, 2013.
- Recruitment of additional volunteers is an on-going effort. Anyone wishing to gain more information may visit the web site [www.friendsofnewgardentrails.org](http://www.friendsofnewgardentrails.org) or e mail [FriendsOfTheTrail@aol.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheTrail@aol.com).
- **Photos by Chris Robinson**

The OSRB meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the township building on Starr Road. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

### **Open Space Review Board Members**

**Gary Bell (2015), Chair**

**Mary Sproat (2013), Secretary**

**Rich Chadwick (2015), Vice Chair**

**Ben Marsden (2014), Treasurer**

**Don Peters (2015), Grants Coordinator**

**Chris Robinson (2016), Member**

**David Rickerman (2014), Member**

**Erin Lee, Natural Lands Trust,  
Consultant**

Attachment 1.

# New Garden Township 2013

Showing sub-watersheds in White and Red Clay watersheds, protected lands, trails (active and proposed), easements and Township owned properties.

