

**Montgomery Township  
Open Space Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 8, 2013**

The monthly meeting of the Open Space Committee was brought to order by Chairman Roy Rodriguez was held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Open Space Committee in attendance included Roy Rodriguez, Larry Poli, and Jay Glickman. Chris Green from Gilmore & Associates, Jeff McDonnell, Board Liaison and Stacy Crandell, Assistant to the Township Manager were also present.

**Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Jay Glickman, seconded by Larry Poli, the minutes for the April and July meetings were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Opening Remarks:** Chairman Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:**

- **Presentation- DVRPC Regional Trails Program Phase 2 Planning Grant**

Chris Green from Gilmore Associates presented the draft feasibility study to the Open Space Committee. He explained that the Township and Gilmore looked at a few different routes and narrowed them down to Option A and B. Both routes are similar with Option A being the off-road option and Option B being the shared road/sidewalk option.

Roy Rodriguez felt it was important for the route to take advantage of the land that the Community Center will be built on. Roy asked if the sidewalks needed to be upgraded if the route already had them. Chris replied that 4 feet is standard and should be fine but the curb ramps may need to be updated.

The Committee asked about the permits needed for the stream crossing and if Horsham Road was an option instead of crossing the stream through Joseph Ambler Inn and the Township property. Chris replied that the Township and Gilmore looked at that option but the road is too busy with traffic that it would be a safety hazard. As for the permits, Chris replied that there are no migration issues so far but farther research and DEP permitting would be required.

The Committee discussed funding this project. Chris said that Option A is a little more expensive in the \$2 million amount and Option B is around \$1.5 million. Stacy Crandell talked about investigating grant funds for construction and with the study that is being completed for Phase II would allow the Township to be eligible for funding for Phase III under the Delaware

Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Grant Program. Township Staff will continue to look for grant funding for this project as the Township moves forward with this study.

On a motion by Jay Glickman, seconded by Larry Poli, the Open Space Committee recommended the approval of the study and recommended Option A as the preferred route. In addition, Roy asked that Chris Green look at phasing for the different segments as that may be a better option to fund the project rather than trying to build the whole route at one time.

- **Update on Community Center:**

Jeff McDonnell and Stacy Crandell gave a brief update on the Community Center. The Steering Committee has been hard at work on the design of the building. The design includes exercise rooms on the second floor and community rooms downstairs. The Board of Supervisors made a decision to stay firm on their commitment for environmental initiatives and have approved the geothermal energy for the Community Center.

- **EAC Project on Bike Trail/Trail Connection**

Stacy Crandell, Staff Liaison to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) gave a brief summary about the Bike Trail Project. Currently, the Committee is looking at what is existing and then they will look at what needs to be constructed in order to make the community more bike friendly. Roy Rodriguez asked that the Committee look at the Open Space Plan to see what they have identified.

**Other Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Open Space Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.