THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
4:00 PM  
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)

General Meeting Information
College Township offers both in-person and virtual meeting attendance for all public meetings. To attend in-person, this meeting will be held at 1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA, 16801, 1st Floor Conference Room. To attend virtually, please see the information below.

To Attend the LIVE Meeting Via Zoom on Computer or Smart Phone:  
- Click HERE to REGISTER for the meeting via Zoom. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To Attend the LIVE Meeting Via Phone:  
- Dial +1 646 558 8656  ● Meeting ID: 889 2481 3640  ● Passcode: 261205
  * Click here for detailed instructions on how to participate via zoom.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Please use the raised hand feature to participate. The moderator will recognize those with their hands raised (either by name or phone number).

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS: For specific agenda items and for items not on the agenda, written public comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon the day of the meeting by emailing mbloom@collegetownship.org.

THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CALL TO ORDER:

OPEN DISCUSSION:  
For any item not on this agenda, please:  
- Limit comments to five minutes  
- Provide the who, what, where and why  
- Ask to add your topic to this or a future agenda, if needed

CONSENT AGENDA:  
CA-1 November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:  
None

OLD BUSINESS:  
OB-1 Review of revised Stakeholder Survey  
- Finalize questions  
- Finalize distribution plan

NEXT MEETING:  
Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT:
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
4:00 PM
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801
2nd Floor Meeting Room

ATTENDED BY:

Bill Keough, Chair
Earl Moore, Vice Chair
Eric Silver
William Ray

STAFF:

Jasmine Fields, State College Borough
Mike Bloom, College Township

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Keough called to order the November 8, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 4:01 PM.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:

There were no items introduced under public discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Moore made a motion to accept the September 13th meeting minutes, Mr. Silver seconded. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Survey of Borough and Township elected & appointed officials

Mr. Keough provided an overview of his recent presentations to the College Township and State College Borough Councils. He noted that as part of these presentations, it was shared that the Thompson Woods Preserve Committees would be developing a survey pertaining to the future of the Preserve.

Mr. Bloom reviewed the sample survey that has been developed and sought the Committees’ feedback. The Committee discussed the intended audience, the survey purpose and what the Committee is trying to understand from the survey responses.

Mr. Bloom offered that based on the discussions following each of Mr. Keough’s presentations to respective Councils, it appears that there may be a difference of opinion on what the Preserve should look/operate like in the future. It is his hope that the survey will provide the Committee with a clearer direction on what the leadership of each of the municipalities envisions for the property and how willing they are to invest in that vision.
Mr. Moore noted that as work continues, it will be important to gauge the sensitivity to changes by those in the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Silver agreed and felt it was important that this survey allow for a check in the motives, particularly, is there any real desire to see the Preserve be anything more than what it is currently. Mr. Ray noted that as this progresses, we should also be asking who are the project advocates, who are the experts and who has the resources to advance any future projects.

The Committee offered several potential revisions to the wording of several of the questions to ensure that they generate the type of feedback that will best inform future work of the Committees. Mr. Bloom noted that we will make those revisions and bring an updated version back to the Committee for review in December.

The Committee also discussed the potential audiences for this survey. It was agreed at the highest level this survey should go to the Council Members and key staff. It was also felt that the Committees and other key organizations like Clearwater Conservancy and Centre Region Parks and Recreation should be gauged. Mr. Bloom offered that there may be an opportunity to distribute the survey in two phases.

The Committee also discussed timing of the survey distribution and the consensus was that it should be sent after reorganization of the municipal Councils in early 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: NB-2 2024 Meeting Dates

Mr. Bloom provided the Committee with a list of potential meeting dates for 2024. The Committee had consensus to continue meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Meeting location will be at either the College Township Municipal Building or the State College Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Moore to adjourn the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Ray. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mike Bloom
College Township Assistant Manager
QUESTION #1:

Please select the description that best describes your affiliation:

- Elected Official – Borough/Township
- Municipal ABC Member – Borough/Township
- Municipal Staff – Borough/Township
- Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Committee Member – Borough/Township/Other
- Thompson Woods Preserve Advisory Committee Member – Borough/Township/Other
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority
- Clearwater Conservancy

QUESTION #2:

In your opinion, which of the following audiences should the Thompson Woods Preserve primarily serve?

- Regional (serving all of the Centre Region)
- Municipal (serving primarily the residents of College Township and State College Borough)
- Neighborhood (servings those residing with close proximity to the Preserve)

QUESTION #3:

Which of the following statements do you feel best represents your thoughts on the future of the Thompson Woods Preserve?

- No changes needed, the Preserve serves its intended purpose and received the appropriate level of investment.
- Needs minor investments, such as better signage, trail maintenance and litter management.
- Requires moderate to significant investments, such as a comprehensive management strategy for invasive vegetation and insects, forest management and expanded enforcement of covenants.
- Significant investments should be made in the Preserve to make it more of a Regional destination for passive recreation.

QUESTION #4:

By its nature as a preserve and the covenants associated with the property, Thompson Woods Preserve is limited to passive outdoor recreation activities such as:

- Biking (where allowed under covenants)
- Education/study/interpretation of the natural features within the Preserve
- Nature Tourism
- Walking/Hiking
- Wildlife/Bird Watching

Over the next 3 years, what investments (choose up to 3) do you believe would be of the most benefit to users of the Preserve:

- Litter management
- New entrance signage
- Improved/expanded parking area
• Installation of internal wayfinding/interpretive signage
• Improved trail maintenance
• Better management of invasive vegetation and/or insects
• Removal of dead/dying trees
• Expanded enforcement of property covenants

**QUESTION #5:**
The Thompson Woods Preserve Committees have identified and prioritized the following four tasks:

1) **Branding/Education:**
   • Consistent messaging: (What is a Preserve?, Appropriate activities in a Preserve?, etc.)
   • Development of the web presence
   • Informational gateway signage

2) **Maintenance:**
   • Maintaining access points
   • Litter management
   • Ensuring user safety from hazards such as worn trails, dead/dying trees, debris/litter, etc.

3) **Vegetation/Forest Management:**
   • Management of invasive vegetation and insects
   • Implementation of Forest Management Plan

4) **Enforcement:**
   • Enforcement actions pertaining to violations of the property covenants and respective municipal ordinances.

**A) Do you agree with these tasks and their respective priorities?**
   • Yes  or  No

**B) If No, how would you reprioritize the tasks and why?**

**C) Are there additional tasks that you feel should be prioritized?**

**QUESTION #6:**
*Please provide any additional thoughts that you have related to the Thompson Woods Preserve:*

**QUESTIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS & MUNICIPAL STAFF**

**QUESTION #7:**
*What do you feel would be an appropriate annual budget amount for your municipality to include on an annual basis to achieve your “10 year vision”?*
   • Under $1,000
   • $1,000 - $2,499
   • $2,500 – $4,999
   • $5,000 - $7,499
   • $7,500 - $9,999
   • $10,000 or more*
QUESTION #8:

A) Which organization should serve as the primary point of contact for the Thompson Woods Preserve?

- Clearwater Conservancy
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- College Township
- State College Borough
- Other:

B) Which organization should be the lead on maintenance tasks within the Thompson Woods Preserve?

- Clearwater Conservancy
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- College Township
- State College Borough
- Other:

C) Which organization should be the lead on implementation of new projects within the Thompson Woods Preserve?

- Clearwater Conservancy
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- College Township
- State College Borough
- Other: