THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
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, 2nd 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: 843 5416 6049 • Passcode: 543211
    * 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

MINUTES: May 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Recap of meeting with Municipal Managers

NB-2 Role of Clearwater Conservancy with TWP Governance
  • Two Step Meeting Process:
    o Meeting with Managers & Clearwater Representatives
    o Joint Meeting of Committees

OLD BUSINESS:

OB-1 Capital Project Request for College Township

INFORMATIVE:

Centred Outdoors: Guided Walk of Thompson Woods Preserve.

NEXT MEETING:

Governance Committee: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 4:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT:
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
4:00 PM
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801
1st Floor Meeting Room

ATTENDED BY: Bill Keough, Chair
Earl Moore, Vice Chair
Charles Fisher
Eric Silver

STAFF: Mike Bloom, College Township
Jasmine Fields, State College Borough

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Keough called to order the May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 4:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:
Mr. Bloom conducted a roll call of members and staff present.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:
Mr. Moore made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 13, 2024 and April 10, 2024 meetings, Mr. Fisher seconded. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Survey Results

Mr. Bloom reviewed the current results from the Elected Officials and Staff survey, noting that there has been a lower than anticipated response rate from Elected Officials. However, there does seem to be a consistent pattern in responses to date.

The Committee reviewed the results and offered the following comments:
- The question pertaining to tree removal will need further clarification.
- The budget question appears to have been missing on the survey.
- Need to understand the “why” behind the low response rate.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Bloom and Ms. Fields make another push with their respective Council’s to increase the overall response rates before compiling a report on the survey findings.
OLB BUSINESS: OB-1 Maintenance Request Follow-Up

Mr. Bloom outlined a potential funding request to address the ponding on the trail near the East College Avenue entrance to the Preserve.

Mr. Silver asked if this was the top maintenance priority in the Preserve and whether there was a process to advance the request to the Councils. Mr. Bloom noted that this was the only capital maintenance request currently before the Committees. He further noted that currently there are no protocols in place for how a project advances to the Councils.

Mr. Keough offered that a more detailed capital needs assessment may be in order. This would provide a clearer picture on overall priorities. Further, he offered that a meeting with the Municipal Managers could be set up to discuss process and protocols.

Mr. Silver felt that was a good approach and suggested that there be a vision for how the process for budgeting for the Preserve should work. He suggested that the end game is to establish a standing maintenance line item.

Mr. Keough offered that the Advisory Committee could be tasked with the capital needs assessment, with short/mid/long term benchmarks. He would be happy to attend the Advisory Committee to discuss this potential assignment, perhaps in June or July.

Mr. Moore made a motion to authorize Mr. Keough, Mr. Bloom and Ms. Fields to request a meeting with municipal managers to discuss protocols on funding requests. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Silver made a motion to authorize staff to task the Advisory Committee with a short-term needs assessment, including prioritizing projects for the Preserve. Mr. Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OB-2 Student Project Follow-Up

Mr. Bloom noted that this item was simply to once again acknowledge the fine work by the Penn State students on the branding/wayfinding concepts, which were displayed in the meeting room. Mr. Bloom specifically thanked Ms. Fields for her efforts in identifying and organizing this effort with Penn State.

The Committee noted how impressive the work of the students was and how it provided great and tangible ideas for a future project that is proving to be a high priority based on the survey results to date.

OB-3 Update on Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement Amendment

Mr. Bloom noted that the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement, which established the new Thompson Woods Governance Structure has been amended by action of both Councils to provide the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority (CRPRA) with greater flexibility in
their appointment to the Governance Committee. The CRPRA will now have the option to appoint either a Board member or a designee approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Moore to adjourn the May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Fisher. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mike Bloom  
College Township Assistant Manager
MEMORANDUM

To: Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee

From: Mike Bloom, Assistant Township Manager

Re: OB-1: Capital Improvement Program Request for College Township

Date: June 6, 2024

Following the meeting with the College Township and State College Borough Municipal Managers, it was clarified that the previously discussed trail capital project should be directed to College Township Council for their consideration.

Project:
Amy Kerner, College Township Public Works Director, and Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks & Recreation Parks Manager, have field viewed the trail and determined that the issues stem from poor drainage of stormwater runoff. As runoff saturates the area in question, it has softened the trail surface making it more susceptible to damage.

In order to properly and permanently address this issue, a subsurface stormwater drainage project should be constructed before any further surface stabilization is completed.

Recommendation:
While a final cost estimate for this project has yet to be developed, it is the recommendation that the Governance Committee request College Township Council consider a $10,000 line item in the first year of the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program.

Placement in the CIP will allow this line item to be considered for inclusion in the 2025 budget.

Requested Action:
The Governance Committee should review the project recommendation and consider the following motion:

Move to request that College Township Council include a $10,000 line item in the first year of the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program for a subsurface stormwater drainage and trail surface stabilization project in the Thompson Woods Preserve.
Sun, Jun 30  |  Thompson Woods Preserve

THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE: GUIDED OUTING

Explore this 43-acre parcel of forested land that was preserved by ClearWater Conservancy in 2000, which covers parts of State College Borough and College Township.

THOMPSON WOODS
FREE GUIDED OUTINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 30  |  1 PM AND 3PM
THURSDAY, JULY 4  |  6PM
About the event

Thompson Woods Preserve Maps & Destination Info

Thompson Woods is a 43-acre parcel of forested land that was preserved by ClearWater Conservancy in 2000. Covering parts of State College Borough and Collette Township, the property is used for passive recreation, and its paths provide a convenient route for walkers between PSU Campus and residential areas. Improvements being planned for the area include new signage, trail maintenance, and forest management.

Parking Information: From the intersection of University Drive, travel on Walnut Spring Lane for 0.4 mi. to the gravel parking area. Do not park at the very end of the cul-de-sac at the end of Walnut Spring Lane.

Difficulty: Easy

Hike Distance (miles): 1.0

What To Expect: Gravel or dirt footpaths with slight inclines.

How To Prepare: Sturdy shoes and a water bottle are recommended. Sunscreen and insect protection recommended for all outings.

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