THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, June 14, 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: 812 8804 6777 • Passcode: 787903

* 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:

PUBLIC 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 May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes
CA-2 May 11, 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting Report

NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Refine and Define Issues/Work Tasks
a. Branding
b. Enforcement
c. Forest Management
d. Maintenance
e. Additional Issues/Work Tasks

NB-2 Prioritize Issues/Work Tasks

ADJOURNMENT:
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 10, 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  
Charles Fisher  
Bill Ray  
Eric Silver

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

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Bloom called to order the May 10, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 4:02 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:
As this is the first regular meeting of the committee, a round of introductions was conducted.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:
There were no items introduced under public discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:  NB-1 Committee Organization
Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the committee structure and recap from the joint meeting that was held on April 11, 2023. Mr. Bloom noted that the Governance Committee is envisioned to function as a traditional; municipal ABC (Authority, Board, Commission), which will include proper, public advertising of meetings, agendas & minutes, and that the Committee should also have a formal officer structure.

Mr. Bloom opened the floor for nominations for Committee Chair. Mr. Moore nominated Mr. Keough, Mr. Silver seconded. No further nominations for Chair were received. The committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Keough as Chair.
Mr. Keough opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Ray nominated Mr. Moore as Vice Chair. Mr. Silver seconded. No further nominations for Vice Chair were received. The committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Moore as Vice Chair.

The Committee discussed the prospect of appointing Council Liaisons to serve as a conduit between the Committee and the respective Councils of State College Borough and College Township. In lieu of a formal appointment, the Committee opted to have a floating, as-needed, liaison.

**NB-2 Set 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Mr. Bloom noted that for advertising purposes, it would be beneficial to set a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023. The Committee’s consensus was to meeting monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM. Meetings will be held at College Township unless otherwise noted in advance.

**NB-3 Discussion of Background Materials**

The Committee was asked for any questions on the background materials related to Thompson Woods Preserve provided in advance of the meeting.

It was discussed that it would be beneficial to have a clear indication of who the main points of contact will be from both municipalities and what resources may be at their disposal in the future. Further, the Committee would like to better understand the current Maintenance Schedule.

Mr. Keough noted that one early task of the Committee may be to provide the Advisory Committee with a list of Issues, potentially prioritized, to help them set their respective work tasks. The following potential issues were raised:

- Maintenance
- Safety
- Enforcement
- Wildlife
- Beautification

The Committee noted that the Advisory Committee may want to add a representative from the Centre Hills Village neighborhood.

One key question raised was how best to promote the unique aspects of the preserve while respecting the restrictions/covenants of the property. Further, it was noted that neighborhood policing plays a key role in ongoing upkeep of the Preserve.

The Committee acknowledged that while issues, such as littering or a fallen tree, may pop up from time to time in the Preserve. It would be best that they focus their work on one or two specific, big picture items at a time. Work tasks could be broken into categories of Short-Term and Long Term.
At some point, the Committee will likely need an education meeting(s) with an expert(s). A site visit may also be worthwhile in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Ray to adjourn the May 10, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Moore. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mike Bloom
College Township Assistant Manager
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING REPORT  
Thursday, May 11, 2023  
4:15 PM  
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801  
1st Floor Library

ATTENDED BY:  
Suzy Yetter, Clearwater Conservancy  
Bruce Pincus, Thompson Woods Property Owner Association  
Matt Keinman, Vallamont Neighborhood  
Seth Narehood, Centre County Conservation District  
Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks & Recreation

STAFF:  
Lance King, State College Borough  
Mike Bloom, College Township

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Bloom called to order the May 11, 2023 Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Advisory Committee at 4:19 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

As this is the first regular meeting of the committee, a round of introductions was conducted.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:

There were no items introduced under public discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:  
NB-1 Committee Organization

Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the committee structure and recap from the joint meeting that was held on April 11, 2023. Mr. Bloom noted that the Advisory Committee is a more loosely organized committee, envisioned as serving as both technical advisors and local eyes on issues facing the Preserve. The Advisory Committee is not considered a municipal ABC (Authority, Board and Commission) and, as such, formal advertising, agendas and minutes, are not required. Additionally, a formal organization officer structure is not required.

Mr. Bloom opened the floor for consideration of officers. Consensus of the Committee was that formal officer positions would not be required, at least not initially. The Committee also opted to hold off on naming a liaison to the Governance Committee and would see how transmittal of written meeting reports would work.

It was further noted that the Vallamont Neighborhood may appoint an alternate representative.

NB-2 Set 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule:
The Committee’s consensus was to meeting quarterly, possibly on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Thursday of each month at 4:15 PM. Staff will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting date. Meetings will be held at College Township unless otherwise noted in advance.

**NB-3 Discussion of Background Materials**

The Committee was asked for any questions on the background materials related to Thompson Woods Preserve provided in advance of the meeting.

It was discussed that it would be beneficial to have a clear indication of who the main points of contact will be from both municipalities and where the money for any proposed work tasks may be coming from. The Committee was interested in past funding for conservation in the Preserve and what the true commitments and dedicated funding may be in the future.

It was noted, given the representation around the table, that each party may likely have different philosophies and priorities on how to address the Preserve in the future. Aligning those priorities within the Committee and within the context of what the municipalities and community will find palatable will be a challenge. For instance, the classic way to address invasives is through herbicide application. How does that work in a Preserve and how would the community react to such an initiative.

One primary challenge will be balancing access and use of the Preserve with the conservation and preservation priorities of the Committees and the original funding partners. Further, the Committees will need to hear from the respective Councils about their priorities. As the management plan and forest management plan indicate, to address the true conservation and preservation needs in the Preserve, the municipalities are looking at significant expenses.

It is important to underscore that recreation in a preserve will differ from recreation in a traditional park. This will require an educational work task. The focus should be on what the Preserve is and what users can do within the Preserve to enjoy it. Currently, the focus is on what is not allowed there. Signage, communications and messaging will be the key.

A possible project would be educational kiosks at the entrance points to the Preserve, similar to those at Millbrook Marsh. It was also suggested that more information about the Preserve be included on the municipal websites, perhaps with a dedicated email address for the community to use for addressing Preserve matters.

**NB-4 Immediate Matters**

1) Educational – branding, messaging, signage  
2) Communications – Points of contact, email account, web presence  
3) Do and Don’ts – understanding priorities, balancing access with conservation goals  
4) Process for vetting projects

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 PM.