THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, July 12, 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 2694 7814  ●  Passcode: 825619

* 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  June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS:  OB-1  TWP Branding/Education
  Continue Discussion on Branding/Education strategies

NEW BUSINESS:  NB-1  TWP Master Planning

ADJOURNMENT:
CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Moore called to order the June 14, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 4:04 PM.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:

There were no items introduced under public discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Committee reviewed and approved the following two Consent Agenda items:

- 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

Prior to discussion on the agenda item, Mr. Moore noted for the record that the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee has officially passed the role of oversight and any prescribed authority over Thompson Woods Preserve to the newly formed Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Structure.

Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the committee’s last discussion and the May 11th discussion by the Advisory Committee. Specifically, both committees were narrowing their respective focus onto 4 topic areas:

- Branding/Education
- Enforcement
- Vegetation/Forest Management
- Maintenance
Branding/Education – Mr. Bloom noted that in particular, the focus so far has been upon defining “what a preserve is” and how it can be enjoyed. Both committees underscored that the messaging in the future needs to be clear and positive in differentiating a preserve from a traditional park.

The Governance Committee noted that development of an online presence and general email account for Preserve matters would be a good initial step. This centralized presence should be a clearinghouse of information on the Preserve including items such as:

- History
- GIS mapping of the property and trails
- Rules and Regulations
- How to Help section (volunteerism)
- Etc.

Physical signage in the Preserve should include a QR code that links the user back to this centralized site. The site should be widely shared/linked amongst the TWP partners.

Enforcement – Mr. Bloom noted that the enforcement in the Preserve has been limited and reactive to citizen concerns. Given the available resources and staff capacity, this will be a touch topic to tackle effectively.

The Governance Committee acknowledged that enforcement is a challenge and felt that the best proactive use of resources would be to lean into education about the conservation and preservation intent of the Preserve.

Vegetation/Forest Management – Mr. Bloom noted that the Advisory Committee had a good discussion on this topic, noting that what is required to manage the vegetation the Preserve correctly represents a likely expensive and significant staff capacity lift. Further, they expressed some reservations on how the community may perceive the use of herbicides within the Preserve.

Maintenance – Mr. Bloom noted that the majority of the Township’s maintenance efforts have been limited to maintaining the integrity of the property boundary and access points. Routine internal maintenance of the Preserve and reaction to safety concerns has often fallen to Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

The Governance Committee felt the priority order of these tasks should be as follows:

1) Branding/Education – Messaging, development of the central site and push for volunteerism as priorities.
2) Maintenance – Focused on maintaining access points, litter management and safety.
3) Vegetation/Forest Management – sharing of Spotted Lanternfly info could be an early priority
4) Enforcement

The Governance Committee would like to see some mock-ups of potential messaging and the site prior to tasking refinements to the Advisory Committee.
The Governance Committee also sees the potential for future corporate support for the Preserve mission.

Staff was also asked to discuss primary points of contact. Mr. Bloom noted that a meeting with the respective municipal managers and assigned staff members will need to be scheduled in the near future to discuss this topic.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Chair Moore accepted a motion from Mr. Ray to adjourn the June 14, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which Mr. Moore seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mike Bloom
College Township Assistant Manager