THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, September 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, 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

CONSENT AGENDA: CA-1 July 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS: OB-1 TWP Branding/Education
1) Review of GIS based web presence
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/73b6a4aff9844ea38aa66d457a020c35/
2) Discussion of Preserve Signage
Potential Penn State Sustainability Institute student project

NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Addressing Tree Maintenance in Preserve
NB-2 Discussion of “Big Picture” topics needing direction from Councils
INFORMATIVES:  
I-1  July 27, 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting Report  
I-2  Annual Easement Monitoring Report  

NEXT MEETING:  
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM  

ADJOURNMENT:
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
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
Bill Ray
Eric Silver

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

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Keough called to order the July 12, 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. Ray made a motion to accept the June 14, 2023 meeting minutes, Mr. Moore seconded. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: OB-1 Branding

Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the draft website for the Thompson Woods Preserve. The intent being to establish a basic web presence now, with a plan to move toward a more dynamic GIS/Story Map based website in the near future.

The Committee discussed the intended audience for the website and offered that it should remain very broad in nature. The Committee then focused on ways to spread the word about the Preserve in the future, including involvement from the Happy Valley Visitors Bureau.

Ms. Fields noted that she is working closely Clearwater Conservancy and is being trained as a Centred Outdoors Guide. This may be an opportunity for the Fall.

Mr. Ray noted that it may be important to show the relationship and unique attributes/uses between the Preserve and neighboring Walnut Springs Park.
Mr. Silver though the website should mention the list of discouraged uses in the Preserve.

The Committee discussed in more detail when and why to engage the Visitors Bureau. Most notably was the potential for grant funding that could help in making the Preserve more viable, specifically for signage and mapping.

Mr. Keough noted that he would like to get on an agenda for each of the respective Council’s this year to discuss the progress of the new Preserve Governance structure.

The Committee is also interested in whether either Council plans to dedicate a budget line item to the Preserve. Mr. Bloom noted that the College Twp Capital Improvement Program showed a $2,500 line item at this time.

The Committee also discussed the potential of new entrance signage for the Preserve that aligns with the website. Ms. Field noted that she had past signage proposals that may be beneficial in future discussions.

Mr. Moore noted that the Advisory Committee should assist in providing more consistent messaging and themes to run across all platforms.

NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Master Planning

The Committee briefly discussed the prospects for more intensive master planning for the Preserve.

Mr. Moore would like to see all the trails measured and to have their distance and degree of difficulty included in the future mapping.

Mr. Ray would like staff to investigate the relationship with the power company. Specifically, can we work with them to be less invasive in their maintenance of their right-of-way and to educate them on the nature of the Preserve.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Ray to adjourn the July 12, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Silver. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mike Bloom
College Township Assistant Manager
THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING REPORT
Thursday, July 27, 2023
4:15 PM
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801
1st Floor Library

ATTENDED BY:
Suzy Yetter, Clearwater Conservancy
Matt Kleiman, Vallamont Neighborhood
Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks & Recreation

STAFF:
Amy Kerner, College Township
Mike Bloom, College Township

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Bloom called to order the July 27, 2023 Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Advisory Committee at 4:19 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:  NB-1  Review Priorities as set forth by Governance Committee

Mr. Bloom provided an overview of the following priorities set forth by the Governance Committee and asked the Committee for their thoughts.

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 Committee members in attendance concurred on the priorities. They discussed ways to build volunteerism including potential scale and the involvement of both Clearwater Conservancy and the Boy Scouts for potential clean-up days.

**NB-2  Branding & Educational**

Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the draft Preserve website and asked for Committee comments. Ms. Yetter offered that the Western PA Conservancy was a good example and that she would provide staff with additional resources.

Mr. Bloom noted that Ms. Field was going to work with Clearwater Conservancy on wording/branding and alignment with their initiatives.
It was noted that the biological inventory needs to be updated. Clearwater Conservancy is looking into that effort and how it may align with those efforts in the Preserve. There may also exist opportunities to align with Penn State classes for this effort.

Discussion on tree removal workflow ensued. Mr. Carpenter noted that his crews are in the Preserve once a week or more investigating tree issues and other aspects of Preserve maintenance. He noted that private citizens are not to clear trees, they should be encouraged to contact CRPR or either municipality.

Mr. Kleiman noted that being a good steward of the Preserve may depend on how the user is choosing to enjoy the Preserve. He also noted that there is some concern about how the students may use the Preserve as the new Aspen Heights development comes on-line.

The Committee also noted that we should be monitoring the Preserve for both Spotted Lanternfly and Spongy Moth moving forward.

Mr. Bloom noted the tentative next meeting date would be October 26th, but he would send out a Doodle poll to confirm availability.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.
August 18, 2023

Mr. Adam Brumbaugh  
Township Manager  
College Township  
1481 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801

Mr. Lance King  
Arborist  
Borough of State College  
243 South Allen Street  
State College, PA 16801

Dear Adam & Lance,

The annual easement monitoring for the Thompson Woods Preserve was conducted on July 28, 2023. Each year, representatives of ClearWater Conservancy and of the Owners – State College Borough and College Township compare the management and condition of the property with the terms of the conservation easement. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the findings.

The following people were present during the visit: Don Franson, College Township Engineer; Amy Kerner, College Township Public Works Director; Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Lance King, State College Borough Arborist; Suzy Yetter and Danny Brumbaugh, ClearWater Conservancy Ecologist and Stewardship Assistant, respectively.

Photographic documentation was taken of the easement boundaries and the natural resource areas and compared to previous years to detect any significant encroachment or property degradation. Overall, we found the management of the Thompson Woods Preserve complies with the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement. No major problems were encountered during the visit. Issues to follow-up or continue monitoring include 1) continued control of competing vegetation (i.e. privet, bush honeysuckle, and other non-native species); 2) proper marking of boundary lines along Walnut Springs Lane; 3) continued maintenance along the trails to reduce erosion issues; 4) litter, especially between the fences bordering Aspen Heights; and 5) safety hazards of leaning and wind-damaged trees. Regarding the last item, many thanks to Amy Kerner for checking with ClearWater staff before proceeding with the removal of the tree near the Oak Ridge property line.

ClearWater Conservancy is committed to working proactively with College Township, State College Borough, CRPR, and the local community to maintain the natural resources within Thompson Woods Preserve. As the easement steward and ClearWater
representative to the TWP Advisory Committee, I thank you for your cooperation and dedication to this important collaborative effort.

In addition to the monitoring report enclosed with this letter, you should also have received electronic files of the 2023 easement monitoring reports. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me by email (suzy@clearwaterconservancy.org) or phone (570-428-5645).

Sincerely,

Suzy Yetter
Ecologist
ClearWater Conservancy
Monitoring Report

1. **Site**: Thompson Woods Preserve

   Monitor(s): Lance King (SC Borough Arborist), Suzy Yetter (ClearWater Conservancy Ecologist), Don Franson (College Township Engineer), Amy Kerner (College Township Public Works Director), Jim Carpenter (CRPR Maintenance Supervisor), and Danny Brumbaugh (ClearWater Conservancy Stewardship Assistant).

   Date: July 28, 2023  Time: 7:30 AM  Weather: Mostly sunny, 70's; forecast hot

   Date of last monitoring: June 29, 2022

2. **Landowner**: College Township, State College Borough

   Landowners present (Y/N): Y—representatives were present from College Township and State College Borough (listed above)

3. **General description of area**: Forested preserve with footpaths adjacent to Walnut Springs Park. Consists of upland and riparian areas.

4. **Photo tour**

   Fixed points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo number(s)</th>
<th>Description, location, and/or orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>From parking lot, mowed area looking NE with private garden in background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>At site where rail fence previously removed by Centre Region at neighbor’s request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Looking down the powerline trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Boundary looking SW behind 921 Walnut Springs Lane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fixed points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo number(s)</th>
<th>Description, location, and/or orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Boundary behind 921 Walnut Springs Lane; boundary corners need to be flagged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Previous encroachment area looking at dead tree location now removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>Boundary at storm water retention area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Site of prior encroachment; items have been removed and area re-seeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>Photos 6 and 7 removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>At Walnut Springs Lane entrance walkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fence and entrance from Oak Ridge Avenue on SE boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Self-closing gate at Woods Road entrance, looking at newly constructed Aspen Heights Development (formerly Hilltop Trailer Park); note new 8-ft metal fence on Aspen Heights side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10a</td>
<td>Self-closing gate is welded shut; note trash beginning to accumulate between the fences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10b</td>
<td>Path leading from Aspen Heights to TWP trail growing shut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>W of Photo 10 location from footpath looking NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Power line trail to YBC entrance looking uphill towards TWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Power line trail to YBC entrance looking downhill toward College Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bridge at YBC entrance from TWP entrance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fixed points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo number(s)</th>
<th>Description, location, and/or orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>15</strong></strong></td>
<td>Thompson Run footbridge at YBC entrance looking downstream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>16</strong></strong></td>
<td>Thompson Run footbridge at YBC entrance looking upstream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>17</strong></strong></td>
<td>Boy Scout bridge built over weat/steep area on side trail that goes up to power line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>18</strong></strong></td>
<td>Entrance to streamside trail from trail originating at parking lot looking NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>18a</strong></strong></td>
<td>Stormwater erosion issues repaired on steep portion of streamside trail just past the Photo 18 location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>19</strong></strong></td>
<td>Trail to parking lot (trail on left of photo) looking S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>19a</strong></strong></td>
<td>Looking up streamside trail toward parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><strong>20</strong></strong></td>
<td>Trail entrance looking N; TWP welcome/rules, directional, tick caution and pet waste signage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Land use:**

What are the present land uses? Please describe. Passive recreation and park land; hiking on designated trails.

What are the current land uses on adjacent properties? Commercial, Residential; Construction of Aspen Heights (formerly the Hill Top Mobile Home Park along the eastern border of TWP) is complete and housing residents. Two fences lie between Aspen Heights and TWP preventing access to the Preserve from the previous footpath.
6. **Problems—describe and indicate photo number:**

**LAND USE**
- [ ] Vegetation removal
- [ ] vandalism
- [ ] picnicking
- [ ] off-road vehicles
- [ ] camping
- [ ] trespass
- [ ] rules infractions
- [ ] access
- [X] litter
- [ ] fire
- [ ] unauthorized hunting
- [X] safety hazards
- [ ] vegetation removal

**ECOLOGICAL**
- [X] over-browsing (deer)
- [X] introduced species

Bush honeysuckle, privet, and buckthorn are main invasive species; Norway maples invading aggressively, especially behind cul de sac on Walnut Springs Lane

- [ ] siltation
- [ ] pollution
- [ ] erosion

**OTHER** (list)
Attach Summary of Easement Restrictions. Do any appear to be issues?
  - Extensive presence of non-native or invasive species throughout the
    Preserve; forest stewardship and management plans should be consulted
    and proposed management actions developed.
  - Considerable deer browse evident throughout the Preserve.
  - "Teepees" constructed of fallen limbs and logs (see Photo 11);
  - Boundary markers along previous encroachment area(s) should be
    located and flagged (see Photos 3 - 5).

7. Landowner relations

Was the owner cooperative? Yes

What was the attitude of the owner toward the easement and the restrictions?
Agrees □□□□ Indifferent □□□□ Disagrees □□□□ Other: __________________

Any follow-up with landowner required?
Not at this time.

Time spent on property: __1__ hours ___0__ minutes

Signature of monitor:

[Signature]

Telephone: 814-237-0400 Email: suzy@clearwaterconservancy.org

Follow up letter sent: ___08_ / ___18_ / ___2023_
Summary of easement restrictions for Thompson Woods

Are there signs of any of the following prohibited uses:

_____ Possession or use of firearms
_____ Depositing human or domestic animal excretion
_____ Operating motorized vehicles (except for emergency, maintenance, etc.)
_____ Camping
_____ Setting of fires
_____ Walking domestic animals without a leash under 6 feet
_____ Littering
_____ Mining
_____ Disturbing the soil (except for maintenance)
_____ Installation of invasive lighting
_____ Biking, except on old township road connecting Walnut Springs Park to East College Avenue
_____ Erecting or installing buildings or structures (some exceptions exist)
_____ Possession, consumption of alcohol
_____ Smoking
_____ Trapping or harassing animal life
_____ Constructing or placing any recreational facility (court, pool, field, playground, etc.)

If a violation appears to have occurred, refer to easement document to verify, as this is a summary of the prohibited uses.

Prepared on 11/26/01 by Lynn Fosbender
## TWP Governance Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representing</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Township</td>
<td>Earl Moore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Themoores19@comcast.net">Themoores19@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Township</td>
<td>Eric Silver</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esilver@psu.edu">esilver@psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State College Borough</td>
<td>Bill Ray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wjr@psu.edu">wjr@psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State College Borough</td>
<td>Charles Fisher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fishercm@comcast.net">fishercm@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre Region Parks &amp; Recreation Authority</td>
<td>Bill Keough</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Wkeough3560@gmail.com">Wkeough3560@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TWP Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representing</th>
<th>Voting Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearwater Conservancy</td>
<td>Suzy Yetter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suzy@clearwaterconservancy.org">suzy@clearwaterconservancy.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Woods Property Owners' Association</td>
<td>Bruce Pincus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bpincus@minitab.com">bpincus@minitab.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Woods Property Owners' Association</td>
<td>Dr. Niel Brandt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nielbrandt@gmail.com">nielbrandt@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Woods Property Owners' Association</td>
<td>Matt Kleiman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkleiman33@gmail.com">mkleiman33@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallamont Neighborhood</td>
<td>Matt Kleiman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkleiman33@gmail.com">mkleiman33@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre County Conservation District</td>
<td>Seth Narehood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:senarehood@centrecountypa.gov">senarehood@centrecountypa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University Department of Ecosystem</td>
<td>William Elmendorf, Ph.D.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wfe1@psu.edu">wfe1@psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Management</td>
<td>Jim Carpenter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcarpenter@crcog.net">jcarpenter@crcog.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Resource</th>
<th>Non-Voting Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCNR</td>
<td>Wes Fahringer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mfaehringer@pa.gov">mfaehringer@pa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>