THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 13, 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
William Ray
Eric Silver

STAFF: 
Jasmine Fields, State College Borough
Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: 
David Schulte – CT Resident, CT Parks & Recreation Committee
Justin Machita – PSU Student

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Keough called to order the March 13, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 4:01 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:
There was a round of introductions for all in attendance.

PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:
Item was initially missed, but was addressed later in meeting.

Mr. Moore made a motion to accept the February 14th meeting minutes, Mr. Ray seconded. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:   OB-1 Maintenance Request – Volunteer Work

Mr. Keough referenced an email from Mr. Stephen Spoonamore regarding the potential for cycling groups to provide volunteer labor to address a portion of the trail that is rutted and ponding.
Mr. Carpenter shared that the section in question appears to need more substantial work than simply spreading and leveling stone. The rutting and ponding can be attributed to runoff that is not draining properly. To address the issue adequately would require work that is beyond the capacity of a volunteer group.

The Committee discussed the issues at the site and the property covenant limitations. The Committee also discussed the type of cyclist traversing the Preserve and whether the proposed shared use path along East College Avenue would divert commuters through the Preserve.

Mr. Keough requested that Mr. Carpenter work with College Township Public Works Director Amy Kerner to develop options to address the rutting and ponding on a more permanent basis. These options could be discussed at the upcoming Joint Committee Meeting.

Mr. Fisher noted that the bridge used to have adjacent trash can, which has gone missing. This location may actually be in Walnut Springs Park, but regardless, Mr. Carpenter said his team would investigate.

**OB-2 Update on PSU Class Project**

Ms. Fields provided an update on the branding project that was developed through the Sustainable Communities Collaborative and a graduate level Graphic Design class. Ms. Fields said she would try to have them provide a presentation at the Joint Meeting.

Mr. Keough also shared that the Joint Meeting would be held on April 10th at 2:00 pm at College Township.

**OB-3 Fallen Tree (New Item)**

Mr. Keough referenced an email from Mr. Tom Ertsgaard related to a recent fallen tree that resulted in a power outage and some damage to properties. Mr. Silver referenced that it was rumored that West Penn Power had requested to cut the tree, but was told no. He noted that Mr. Ertgaard was asked to provide additional information and the contact that shared this information.

Mr. Keough noted that establishing a good contact and open communication with West Penn Power is an important step that needs to be taken. Mr. Carpenter noted that in limited instances when West Penn Power reaches out in reference to their easements or right-of-ways, he directs them to the municipalities.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Carpenter shared that they were both unclear as to whether the tree in question was in the Preserve or in Thompson Woods Parklet.

**NEW BUSINESS: NB-1 Committee Survey**

Mr. Keough shared that the initial test run of the survey amongst the Committees was complete and seems to have been successful. The Committee members hadn’t seen the detailed results as of yet and asked that those be shared at the Joint Meeting prior to sending the Survey to the Municipal Elected Officials and staffs.
The Committee also discussed the potential of a public survey. It was noted that this would be a separate and distinct survey that would be informed by the initial survey of the Committees and Municipalities. Finally, it was noted that the survey information needs to be clarified to show that the municipalities own the Preserve, not Clearwater Conservancy.

NB-2 Joint Meeting Topics

The Committee suggested that the following topics would be appropriate for the Joint Meeting:

- Survey Results
- Branding & Signage
- Path Maintenance & Options

Mr. Keough noted again that next meeting would be the Joint Meeting to be held on April 10th at 2:00 pm at College Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Ray to adjourn the March 13, 2024, 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