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