

The meeting of the Highland Township Planning Commission took place on May 2, 2016 with the following in attendance: Dr. John Fisher, Judy Noyales, Dean Davis, March Walsh, Don Mancini and KC Kulp.

Chairman KC Kulp called the meeting to order. He read the minutes of the April meeting. Bill asked if the spelling of Mr. Detering's name was correct. It was not. March motioned to approve the minutes as revised, Dr. Fisher seconded.

New Business – Bill stated that the Bender's plan should be here soon.

Old Business – none

KC asked if the township knew that the Esh property was going to be up for public auction. Bill said we did not.

KC introduced Hank Detering, he is the chairman of Londonderry Township's Open Space Committee. Mr. Detering gave the background as to how his committee was formed. He stated that the committee is supposed to be 5-7 members, with representation from both zoning districts and at least one working farmer. They are to assist the supervisors with comprehensive planning & vision for Open Space, as well as educate residents about programs and opportunities available to them. In addition, they prioritize properties within the township for preservation. Mr. Detering provided the PC with a copy of their Organizational and Operational Guidelines. (see attached)

Don Mancini asked about the limitation on agriculture. Mr. Detering explained that the township can participate with the county to do a challenge grant with the state, however, they will only do that with an additional easement meeting certain requirements.

KC asked if anything has been challenged. Nothing to date has been challenged by the owner going back on the agreement.

Judy asked if there has been any progress on preserving class 1 & 2 soils. Mr. Detering replied that they have the ear of Senator Andy Dinniman and they are hoping to have a hearing.

Don said the PC could request the Board of Supervisors to think about something similar.

Judy asked how many acres they have purchased easements on. It was approximated to be 400-500 acres. Roughly 62% of the township is under easements. Bill is going to check to see what percentage we have currently eased. Mr. Detering said he would send a copy of the terms of their easements.

Judy motioned to adjourn, March seconded, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Davis, Secretary